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ARAB TIMES

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Amir's message for Benjedid

ALGIERS, April 15, (Kuna): President Chadli Benjedid yesterday met Kuwait's State Minister for Foreign Affairs, Saoud Mohammed Al-Osaimi who conveyed to him a letter from HH the Amir of Kuwait, the Algerian Press Service reported.

The agency did not disclose details of the message, but it is believed the letter deals with the hijacking of the Kuwaiti airliner.

The Council of Ministers last night appreciated the efforts of the Algerian authorities resulting in the release of one hostage.

The extraordinary cabinet meeting, chaired by HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah, hoped that the efforts will succeed to end the hijacking leading to the release of all the passengers.

No deals: Kuwait

KUWAIT yesterday denied as "absolutely groundless" a newspaper report that Kuwaiti officials signed an agreement in Cyprus with representatives of the hijackers of the Kuwait Airways jet.

"There is no truth at all to the report of such an agreement," an official source said.

"Kuwait is still committed to its principles, and strongly rejects deals with terrorists and blackmail."

The report published by the Abu-Dhabi-based newspaper Al Itihad said Kuwaiti officials signed the agreement at Larnaca airport, Cyprus, with representatives of the hijackers and officials from the PLO and Algeria.

Al Itihad, citing diplomatic sources, said in its report published Thursday the agreement called for the commuting of sentences passed on 17 Arab extremists jailed for bombing the US and French embassies in Kuwait five years ago.

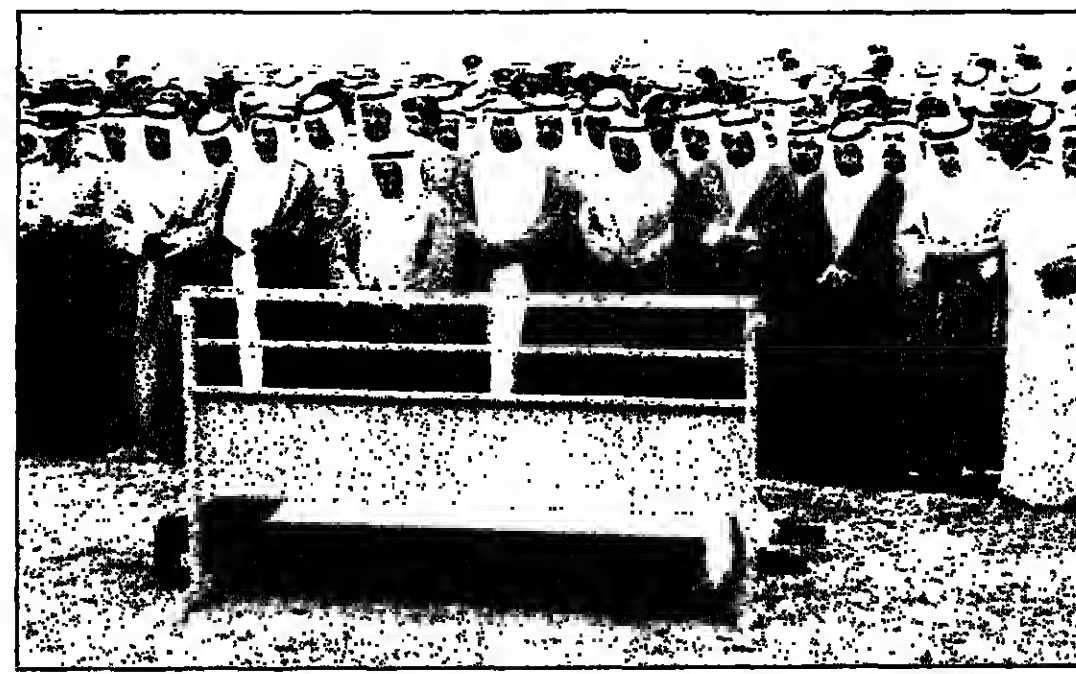
Negotiation fails to achieve results Hijackers wait for orders from Iran

ALGIERS, April 15, (Agencies): Gunmen holding a hijacked Kuwaiti airliner used the voices of terrified hostages today to press their demands in hard bargaining with Algerian mediators.

With talks to end the 11-day hijack, already the second longest in history, making little apparent progress, the official Kuwaiti News Agency Kuna said the hijackers were believed to be waiting for orders from Iran.

A high-level Algerian mediation team led by Interior Minister El Hadi Kheridi had at least four contacts today with the gunmen.

The hijackers, believed to number eight, put two of their estimated 31 hostages on the radio to the control tower to deliver terrified pleas to Kuwait.



HH the Crown Prince and Premier Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah, cabinet ministers and other mourners praying for the souls of hijack victims.

Insistence

"I want to ask the Kuwaiti authorities to release the 17 people detained in the prison of Kuwait," hostage Suleiman Mohammed Suliman Al Moudjawi said.

"This is because of the insistence of the hijackers that if the detainees are not released they will kill us," he said in a voice that trembled so much the message had to be repeated.

A second hostage delivered a similar message, which gave every appearance of having been written by the hijackers.

Kuwait has repeatedly refused to release the 17 Arab militants, jailed for bomb attacks in 1983, as demanded by the gunmen who seized the Kuwait Airways Boeing 747 on April 5.

Kuwa, reporting from Algiers, said some of the hijackers had hardened their position in the last few hours.

"They are believed to be awaiting instructions from outside to decide what to do over the stalemate which has occurred in the negotiations," the agency said.

Agreed

Sources close to the negotiators said that after hours of complex talks the hijackers agreed to free two hostages yesterday.

But they released only one, a Kuwaiti with diabetes, and said afterwards: "We are not going back on our demands, even if the cost is very high."

Witnesses and Algerian sources said a deal to free two of the three members of the Kuwaiti ruling family aboard the Boeing 747 jet fell through yesterday at the last minute. The hijackers at one point offered to release the two female hostages, but they refused to go unless all three were freed.

During the plane's four-day stop in Larnaca, the hijackers killed two Kuwaiti hostages and beat others in their efforts to force Cypriot authorities to release them.

Freed passengers said all the hostages had their hands tied and the aircraft doors had been wired with dynamite.

Diplomats said that, in addition to Khediri, the Algerian mediation team comprised military security chief Lakehal.

Emotional state funeral

Murdered hijack victims buried

WITH a salute of trumpets and cries of "God is Great," Kuwait buried two murdered hijack victims on Thursday, and Kuwaitis vowed to defy the hijackers who are still holding hostages in Algeria.

Hundreds of mourners reached out for one last touch before the bodies, wrapped in burial shrouds, were lowered into the grave with full military honours.

HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah led some 2,000 mourners paying their last respects to Khaled Ayoub Bandar, 20, a fireman, and Abdullah Mohammed Al Khalidi, 25, a border guard, whose mutilated bodies were thrown onto the tarmac of Larnaca airport in Cyprus.

Simple

Returning from vacations in Bangkok, they were among 97 passengers seized when gunmen hijacked the Boeing 747 on April 5 to press demands for the release of 17 Arab prisoners in Kuwait.

In accordance with Kuwaiti tradition, the ceremony was simple.

A military honour guard escorted the flag-draped coffins of Bandar and Khalidi.

Traditional Muslim chants of "Allah Akbar," (God is Great), and "La ilah illa Allah," (There is no God but God), resounded across the Sulaibikhaat cemetery as tightly-packed mourners passed stones over their heads to reach those at graveside who were covering the bodies.

Women waited outside the Sulaibikhaat cemetery dressed in long black robes. Some had their faces covered and began to weep when the bodies were hoisted onto dozens of shoulders and carried from ambulances to the graves.

The cabinet issued a statement

Hull ripped open US frigate hits mine in Gulf

BAHRAIN, April 15, (Agencies): A US frigate hit a mine in the Gulf yesterday in the first mine incident in the troubled waterway for several weeks and what is believed to be the first involving an American warship, US military officials said.

The 3,700-ton frigate USS Samuel B. Roberts ran into a patch of sea with "numerous" mines just before its hull was ripped open by one of the explosives, injuring 10 crewmen, military officials said today.

Two of the injured were in critical condition with burns.

The missile frigate was being towed to Dubai for repairs after the blast. The US Navy said it was out of danger.

The mines are widely believed to have been laid by Iran.

Recent

In Washington, US Vice-President George Bush said today a recently planted mine caused the explosion.

"We must not permit one recently planted mine to deter our presence there," Bush told the American Society of Newspaper Editors when asked about the blast.

Bush's comment was the first direct confirmation the frigate hit a mine and that the explosive was newly planted and not a drifting old device.

US Navy minesweepers found and destroyed three moored mines in the Gulf east of Bahrain, after the frigate hit a mine, defence officials said in Washington.

"They have found and destroyed the three mines spotted by the Samuel B. Roberts" before it apparently struck a fourth mine, one of the officials said.

Jump

The frigate had come to an almost complete stop in the water at the time of the explosion after successfully manoeuvring away from several mines spotted by lookouts, said Defence Department officials in Washington, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The effort to manoeuvre out of the mine field was hampered by rough seas, however, and the mine the Samuel B. Roberts eventually hit was probably

Afghan accord signed

GENEVA, April 15, (Agencies): The Soviet Union signed a formal pledge yesterday to end its intervention in Afghanistan and start pulling out its Red Army troops on May 15 after eight years of war.

The Muslim guerrillas, however, vowed to continue fighting until the last Soviet soldier has left Afghan soil and the Marxist government in Kabul has toppled.

The war is estimated to have cost more than 1 million lives.

The Soviet Union, United States, Afghanistan and neighbouring Pakistan signed the four-part accord in an austere 10-minute ceremony at the United Nations building.

Afterward, Pakistan predicted the civil war will go on because there is no provision for an interim government and said it would continue denying recognition to the communist government in Kabul. Islamabad represented the guerrillas at the negotiations.

The insurgents, who were not involved in more than six years of oo-ago, off-again negotiations, said they would present their reaction tomorrow at a rally in Pakistan.

Fighting

The US-supported guerrillas have been fighting since a communist coup in April 1978 and claim to control virtually all the country except the cities. They are based in camps and cities on Pakistan's side of the border.

Under the provisions of the accord, Soviet troops will start withdrawing from Afghanistan oo May 15 and all will be out in nine months, with half leaving in the first three months. The Soviets have indicated they may finish the pullout by the end of 1988.

The agreements also require Afghanistan and Pakistan to

(Continued on Page 2)

US vetoes UN resolution against Israel

UNITED NATIONS, April 15, (Reuters): The United States vetoed today a resolution in the Security Council to censure Israel for its irrevocable response to the Palestinian uprising in the West Bank and Gaza.

The 14 other members voted for the proposal, submitted by Algeria, Argentina, Nepal, Scotland, Yugoslavia and Zambia.

Explaining his action killing the draft, US delegate Herbert Okun repeated his government's objections to the council's frequent debates on the events in the occupied territories.

This was the fifth round of discussion since the council since the uprising began on Dec 9, and the second time since Feb 1 that the United States exercised its power of veto in the case.

Deposition

The Americans voted for a resolution oo Jao 5 that called oo Israel to rescind deportation orders against Palestinians said to have instigated the revolt.

The latest draft resolution was prompted by new Israeli deportation orders.

If the resolution had been adopted, the council would have codified "those policies and practices of Israel, the occupying power, which violate the human rights of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories, and in particular the opening of fire by the Israeli Army, resulting in the killing and wounding of defenceless Palestinian civilians."

(See Page 2)

Arms depot erupts again

ISLAMABAD, April 15, (Reuters): A devastated Pakistan Army arsenal near Islamabad erupted again today, firing off more rockets and injuring at least five people, a government statement said.

About 100 people were killed and 1,100 injured on Sunday when a huge blast at the dump raised thousands of rockets and bombs oo parts of the capital and adjacent Rawalpindi.

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آج کے اردو صفحات میں

○ جیوا سمجھوتے پر دستخط ہو گئے

○ ہائی تکرول نے دانستہ فاکرات میں قتل پیدا کر رکھا ہے

○ ایک اور عربی غالی رہا

○ ایران کے کئی شہروں پر عراقی طیاروں کی بمباری

○ راولپنڈی اسلام آباد میں زندگی معمول پر آ رہی ہے

○ کراچی کی شاہ فیصل کالونی میں گرفتہ قحتم

○ لاہور نامہ

WEATHER

TEMPERATURE will be around normal with light easterly wind and dust will settle down gradually.

State of sea: slight

High water: 11.00 am, 12.00 noon

Low water: 6.00 am, 6.00 pm

Sunrise: 5.21 am

Sunset: 6.15 pm

Maximum temperature recorded: Kuwait: 31°C 88°F

Ahmad: 29°C 84°F

Fallaka: 28°C 82°F

Minimum temperature recorded: Kuwait: 22°C 72°F

Ahmad: 24°C 75°F

Fallaka: 23°C 73°F

Maximum temperature expected: Kuwait: 31°C 88°F

Ahmad: 29°C 84°F

Fallaka: 28°C 82°F

Minimum humidity recorded: Kuwait: 66 per cent

Ahmad: 78 per cent

Fallaka: 80 per cent

Maximum humidity expected: Kuwait: 68 per cent

Ahmad: 80 per cent

Fallaka: 82 per cent

'Kuwait comes out of a crisis stronger'

Terrorists must be punished: Sheikh Issa

By Ahmed Al Jarallah

KUWAIT comes out of every crisis well and strong, the Amir of Bahrain, Sheikh Issa Bin Salman Al Khalifa, has said.

He said that Kuwait had to the oear past passed through many difficult crises, especially those relating to its security, "caused by evil criminals."



Sheikh Issa

Wisdom

Sheikh Issa asserted that Kuwait came out of a crisis stronger every time, aided by God's care and the wisdom of the country's political leadership.

He said he had been very disturbed by the hijacking of the Kuwaiti civilian plane and lived through the incident "just like Kuwaitis."

"One consolation was that the Kuwaiti people stood firmly and solidly behind their leaders in their decision oo to submit to the terrorist blackmail."

He said that terrorism must be severely cooured and there should be no mercy for terrorists.

Sheikh Issa said that God had

Fadhel Al Sabah in bad shape

Released passenger beaten frequently

ALGIERS, April 15, (UPI): A released hostage said he was beaten frequently and told officials of atrocious conditions aboard the hijacked Kuwaiti airliner where air pirates held 31 other people oo the 11th day of the hostage drama.

Juma Abdullah Al Shati, a Kuwaiti, told officials after his release yesterday that the centre doors of the plane were wired with explosives by the hijackers and said hostages were beaten if they violated a rule of absolute silence.

Shati said there were eight hijackers.

Al Shati suffers from diabetes and was urgently in need of an insulin injection. He was

examined oo board by Algerian Dr Youssef Mahdi, who told the hijackers Shati was in imminent danger of death and it was impossible to treat him on board.

The captives had oo reading material and oo information about the negotiations for their release, Al Shati said.

Suffered

Al Shati, told officials one of three Kuwaiti ruling family members being held captive, Fadhel Al Sabah, 33 is in bad physical and emotional condition.

The released hostage said Fadhel had apparently suffered a nervous breakdown. At one point Fadhel was brought to the cockpit and told by the hijackers

to speak to negotiators oo the radio but was unable to do so.

He shook nervously and wept constantly, Al Shati said.

Two other royal family members also are among the remaining captives: Ebtesam Al Sabah, 22, and Anwar Al Sabah, 20. An attempt to gain release of the two failed on Thursday, two hours before Al Shati was freed, because they refused to leave their cousin, officials said.

Tired

"They tied my hands to my seat, look, look," Al Shati told Kuwaiti reporters at Houari Boumediene airport after his release. "They beat us. They beat me and even prevented me from carrying out my natural needs."

Al Shati displayed deep, bleeding cuts oo both wrists from the handcuffs. All other hostages were also handcuffed.

"When I asked them to go to the toilet," the tired and haggard-looking hostage said, "they said to me 'sit down or we will beat you.'"

He said the remaining hostages, whom he estimated to number about 30, were grouped in seat rows 22 to 36, located directly above the fuel tanks.

"The hijackers must be punished by death... those criminals must be cut into pieces before the people," Halima Abdulla said minutes after seeing live television coverage of her husband, Al Shati.

INTERNATIONAL

Hijackers wait for orders from Iran

(Continued from Page 1)

Ayat, national security head Abdelmajid Bousbi and Smail Hamdani, the highly respected secretary-general at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Well-placed Algerian sources said Hamdani was remaining behind the scenes, entrusted with contacts between the Algerians and the Kuwaitis.

A Western diplomat described him as extremely competent. "He is an archetypal case of the brilliant Algerian diplomat."

In Kuwait, a leading newspaper said today the hijackers are demanding only the release of Elias Saah, whose real name is Mustafa Badreddin, sentenced to death for the bombings five years ago in Kuwait, and Hussein Sayed Youssef Al Musawi, who was sentenced to life imprisonment.

Nevertheless "Kuwait turned down the (scaled-down) demand," the paper quoted well-informed sources saying. It also reported that a delegation representing the hijackers had arrived in Algiers from either Tehran or Beirut to negotiate with the Algerian authorities on the grounds and "direct the hijack operation."

Hijackers have asked Kuwait through the Algerian Interior Minister to issue an official statement pledging "not to



Juma Abdullah Al Shati recounts his ordeal at the hands of the hijackers after he was released. (Reuters wirephoto)

prosecute them in the event the skyjack ended peacefully, another newspaper said.

The air pirates have also asked Kuwait to issue another resolution "commuting the death sentence against three of those convicted in the bomb explosion crimes in Kuwait."

Kuwait had repeatedly declared that it will not bow in extortion or blackmail.

The newspaper said that one of the hijackers had boarded 18 flights of the Kuwait Airways Corporation in the span of a

month and a half to review security measures in all KAC flights and to all destinations.

State-owned Kuwait Radin, meanwhile, reported that HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah today telephoned Algerian Premier Abdelhamid Brahimi to discuss "the intensification of efforts being exerted in bringing about the release of the passengers."

The radio report, gave no details. Western sources in Paris said it

was believed parallel, high-level negotiations were going on, beyond those taking place at the airport, between Kuwait and Iran with Algeria acting as an intermediary.

When the Algerian President Chadli Benjedid came to the airport yesterday to receive Zambian President Kenneth Kaunda on a previously scheduled visit, the Algerian authorities obtained the agreement of the hijackers to have the plane taxied nearly two miles down the runway to be out of sight for the official welcoming ceremony.

Position

After Kaunda departed several hours later, the jumbo jet returned in its original position, in full view of several hundred reporters and television crews gathered in the airport's VIP lounge.

The Algerians said it was the hijackers who insisted the plane be returned in that spot, where normal flights in and out of Algiers have to make a berth near the huge blue and white Boeing 747.

Osairi has dismissed as baseless a press report suggesting that Algeria was putting pressures on Kuwait to be more flexible in negotiations with the hijackers.

Thai official denies arms smuggled in Bangkok

BANGKOK, April 15, (Reuters): Thai authorities investigating the hijack of the Kuwaiti airline flight that started in Thailand said today they were confident weapons were not smuggled aboard at Bangkok airport.

Srisuk Chantharangsak, a senior Communications Ministry official, said: "We have questioned more than 80 people who serviced the plane before it left Bangkok and found nothing suspicious."

He said in an interview: "It is unlikely that the weapons were slipped on the plane in Bangkok."

The Thai media have reacted strongly to suggestions by the International Air Transport Association that Thai security could be blamed, with many saying this wilfully damaged the country's image abroad.

Srisuk said Bangkok airport authorities were only responsible for screening passengers. Kuwait Airways hired their own security to check goods loaded on the ramp and search inside the plane before take-off. A Kuwait Airways spokesman said he was forbidden by his head office from saying anything about the case.

State-owned Channel Nine television rejected a statement by IATA security chief Rodney Wallis in Montreal that it was probable "the weapons were placed on board the aircraft through the coercion or collusion of staff on the (airport) ramp."

New demand has family roots

A KUWAIT daily quoted well-informed sources on Friday as saying that Kuwait which repeatedly refused to give into blackmail, has turned down a demand by hijackers of the Kuwaiti airliner to release two out of the 17 prisoners they originally wanted to be freed.

Al Qabas said that the new demand, as it seems, has family roots "as hijacker Imad Mughniya, who was confirmed as one of the masterminds or the executives of the hijack, is a kin of one of the prisoners in Kuwait, namely Mustafa Badreddin."

It added, in the same report, that a delegation representing the sky pirates arrived in Algiers from Beirut or Tehran "to negotiate with the Algerian authorities and to steer the hijack operation."

In a telephone contact the daily made with former Iranian President Abulhassan Bani Sadr from Algiers, he said, "the plane is now beyond the Palestinian mediation and also beyond Syrian or Palestinian intervention."

"In case the situation with the hijackers tightens, Algeria will seek pressure on Iran through its ambassador in Tehran," Bani Sadr was quoted by the paper as saying.

Hijack victims

(Continued from Page 1)

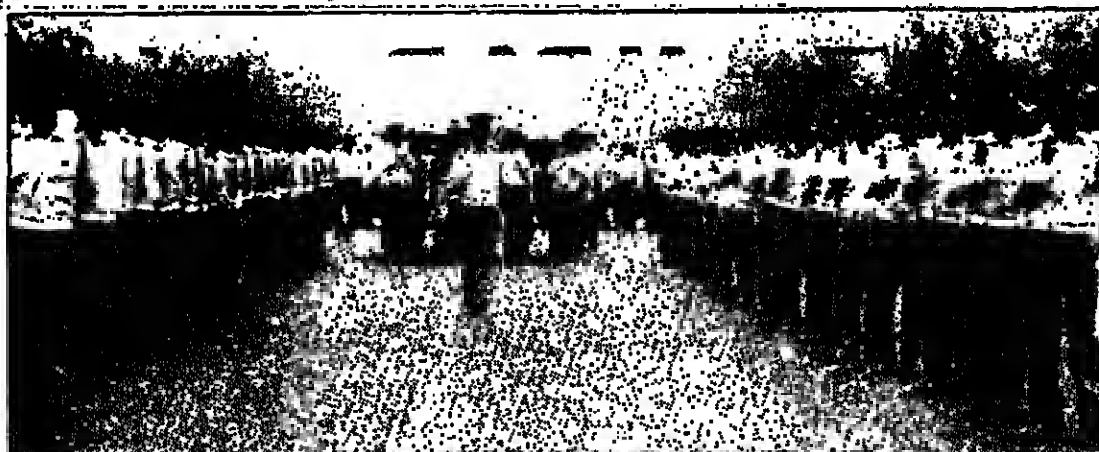
the American people and government that you should never ever give in to terrorists and their demands.

He said it was unfortunate Washington had sold arms to Iran to try to obtain the release of foreign hostages in Lebanon.

"Everybody agrees on one point, that we should not give in... no matter what the sacrifices," said businessman Abdullah Al Saleh.



MOURNERS reach out to carry the coffins.



A MILITARY honour guard escorting the flag-draped coffins.

'The mastermind'

BEIRUT, April 15, (Reuters): A pro-Iranian Muslim militant linked to the kidnapping of foreigners in Beirut masterminded the hijacking of the Kuwaiti airliner now in Algiers, a senior Muslim security source has said.

The source, who declined to be identified, said Imad Fayed Mughniya planned the April 5 seizure of the plane and was in the northeast Iranian town of Mashhad when it landed there last week.

Mughniya left Beirut for Iran late last year and the source said he had not yet returned. The hijacked plane subsequently flew to Cyprus, where two hostages were killed as the gunmen pressed their demands for fuel, and then in Algiers.

The source said Mughniya was a senior member of a group of Muslim fundamentalists concerned with the fate of 17 Arab militants imprisoned in Kuwait. Their release has been the main demand of the hijackers.

A Kuwaiti daily newspaper reported on Tuesday that Mughniya was believed to be leading the gunmen when commandeered the Kuwait Airways plane on a flight from Bangkok to the Gulf country.

It said he and some colleagues were believed to have boarded the Boeing 747 in Mashhad to reinforce a less skilled hijacking team. But the security source doubted that Mughniya was aboard.

Production of Arab-made weapons backed

ABU DHABI, April 15, (AP): Three oil-rich Gulf Arab states have responded positively to an Egyptian plea for resuming production of Arab-made weapons, an Egyptian minister said today.

The Egyptian Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs, Atef Obeid, said officials from four countries would meet this month to discuss ways of reactivating a Cairo-based joint arms industry organisation set up by those nations in 1975, but suspended in 1979 when Egypt signed the peace treaty with Israel.

"Officials of the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Qatar and Egypt will hold a meeting during the last month of Ramadan to agree on means of supporting the Arab Organisation for Industrialisation," he told the UAE official news agency Wam.

In a departure statement, Obeid said that leaders of the member states have yet to decide the level at which the meeting will be held.

US Congress tries to block arms for Saudis

WASHINGTON, April 15, (AP): Campaigns have gained momentum in both houses of Congress to block the sale of \$460 million of US military equipment to Saudi Arabia.

It was announced yesterday that 58 Senators have signed a letter calling on Secretary of State George Shultz to re-evaluate the pending arms sale in light of the discovery that the Saudis have purchased medium-range ballistic missiles from China.

A similar letter-writing campaign began in the House of Representatives with a bipartisan coalition calling for an end to all arms sales to Saudi Arabia until the Chinese missiles have been removed.

"The Saudi-Chinese missiles threaten the entire Middle East," said Senator Howard Metzenbaum. "It is a mobile missile with a range of up to 1,850 miles (3,000 kms), giving the Saudis the capability to strike targets

throughout the Middle East and beyond."

Representative Charles Schumer said 47 House members already have signed a letter to Shultz asking the administration to withdraw the sale of Bradley fighting vehicles, Tow missiles and ground support equipment for Awacs early-warning aircraft.

Permit Schumer said he expects many other House members to sign the letter in the next few days.

"Congress will not permit the sale of any weapons to Saudi Arabia until its leaders remove the Chinese missiles and until they pledge they will not pursue such destabilising arms purchases in the future."

Representative Constance Morella said the missiles' range and their ability to carry nuclear and chemical weapons "poses a grave threat to our ally, Israel, and escalates the arms race in a volatile region."

Danger averted

THE State Minister for Services Affairs, Issa Al Maziidi, has said that had the landing of the hijacked Kuwaiti Boeing, Al Jahriya, been delayed for a few more seconds at Larnaca airport last Friday, then it would have blown up in mid-air, as it had run out of fuel.

Al Maziidi, who headed the Kuwaiti negotiating team in Larnaca, Cyprus, added that if the plane had circled over Larnaca airport one more time, a disaster would have occurred.

Coke, cakes

(Continued from Page 1)

Earlier, the passengers' meagre diet was underlined when hijackers ordered Coca-Cola and cake as their main evening meal after a light aircraft lunch had been served.

The Assistant Secretary of Health at the Department of Health and Human Services, Dr Robert Winden, notified the NIH of the administration decision last week, the Post said.

The NIH had planned to use the tissue to follow up experiments in treatment of such major illnesses as Parkinson's disease, Alzheimer's disease and leukemia.

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Dukakis leads in polls

NEW YORK, April 15, (AP): Sen. Albert Gore Jr., running a distant third in the Democratic presidential race, received the endorsement of New York Mayor Edward Koch, but three polls show front-runner Michael Dukakis stands to win the biggest primary so far this season.

Dukakis, Gore and Jesse Jackson held a low-key debate last night, the only clash occurring when Gore continued his criticism of Dukakis on the issue of use of nuclear weapons.

Republicans George Bush and Pat Robertson — their presidential rivalry reduced to a pro-forma contest — Bush is certain to win — were addressing the annual Washington convention of the American society of newspaper editors today.

Senate Republican leader Bob Dole, once Bush's bitter rival for the presidential nomination, was hosting a reception at the Capitol for the Vice-President.

The April 19 New York primary has 225 delegates at stake, more than a tenth of the 2,082 needed for nomination. But while a victory in New York could provide a substantial lead in the delegate count for Dukakis or Jackson, Gore would still be behind even if he won all the delegates.

The Associated Press' latest count shows Dukakis, the governor of Massachusetts, with 842.15, Jackson with 730.1 and Gore with 415.55.

Jackson's chances in New York have appeared to receive a boost from Gov. Mario Cuomo this week when the influential governor was generous in his praise. But yesterday, Cuomo said Jackson's lack of experience in elective office could hurt him if he won the nomination.

US frigate hits mine in Gulf

(Continued from Page 1)

Other Navy warships rushed to aid the Samuel B. Roberts. Together with the crew of the stricken frigate, these warships conducted a night-long salvage operation. They pumped the water out and patched the hole, said Navy sources.

The Navy said the Samuel B. Roberts, which ran aground at a point about 55 miles (88 kms) northeast of the Qatar peninsula, was in danger of sinking.

The ship, based in Newport, Rhode Island, left there for Gulf duty on Jan 11. The Navy said about 225 men were aboard.

In the "war of the cities," the Iraqi News Agency said today the Iraqi warplanes raided the nine cities, mainly in western Iran. Iran said it fired six short-range missiles into the port city of Basra and other Iraqi cities.

Iraqi bombers dived across the border into south Iran today, raiding cities and killing several people.

The Iraqi planes ventured hundreds of miles (km) in their dawn raids into Iran, hitting the south Iran city of Dezful, 500 miles (800-km) southwest of Tehran, Tehran Radio said.

Iraq also sent a destructive, Soviet-made surface-to-surface missile crashing into a Tehran suburb at 3.25 pm.

Iraq retaliated with six missile strikes on the heavily-defended south Iraq port of Basra and other cities nearby.

Experimental use of foetus banned

WASHINGTON, April 15, (Reuters): The Reagan administration has prohibited the National Institutes of Health from using tissue from aborted fetuses in medical research, the Washington Post said today.

The NIH had planned to use the tissue to follow up experiments in treatment of such major illnesses as Parkinson's disease, Alzheimer's disease and leukemia.

The Assistant Secretary of Health at the Department of Health and Human Services, Dr Robert Winden, notified the NIH of the administration decision last week, the Post said.

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Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze (left) and US Secretary of State George Shultz, sign an agreement committing the Soviet Union to withdraw its troops from Afghanistan in Geneva. (Reuters wirephoto)

Soviets to start pullout from May 15

Afghan accord signed

(Continued from Page 1)

stop interfering in each other's affairs.

The official Soviet news agency Tass, reporting from the Afghan capital of Kabul, quoted President Najib as saying the Geneva accord signals "the end of the undeclared war against Afghanistan, open the road home to refugees and create the possibility for the return home of the limited contingent of the Soviet Army."

Ambassador Sirrus Nasser of Iran, which borders Afghanistan on the west, said the agreement provides a face-saving way for the Soviets to leave but "we do not yet have a solution for Afghanistan."

About 3.5 million Afghan refugees live in Pakistan and another 1.5 million in Iran, together representing about one-third of Afghanistan's population. Those in Iran are not covered by the accord's provisions on return of refugees.

Indirect The package was worked out in indirect talks between Pakistan and Afghanistan that began in 1982 and were mediated by the United Nations. Soviet soldiers entered Afghanistan in December 1979 and an estimated 115,000 are there helping fight

the insurgents. About 100 opponents of the accord held an hour-long demonstration outside the UN headquarters building before the signing ceremony yesterday afternoon.

Those signing the document were US Secretary of State George Shultz, Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze of the Soviet Union, Afghan Foreign Minister Abdul Wakil and Pakistan's acting Foreign Minister, Zain Noorani.

Shevardnadze told reporters the accord "totally blocked" the "entire range" of interference in Afghan affairs.

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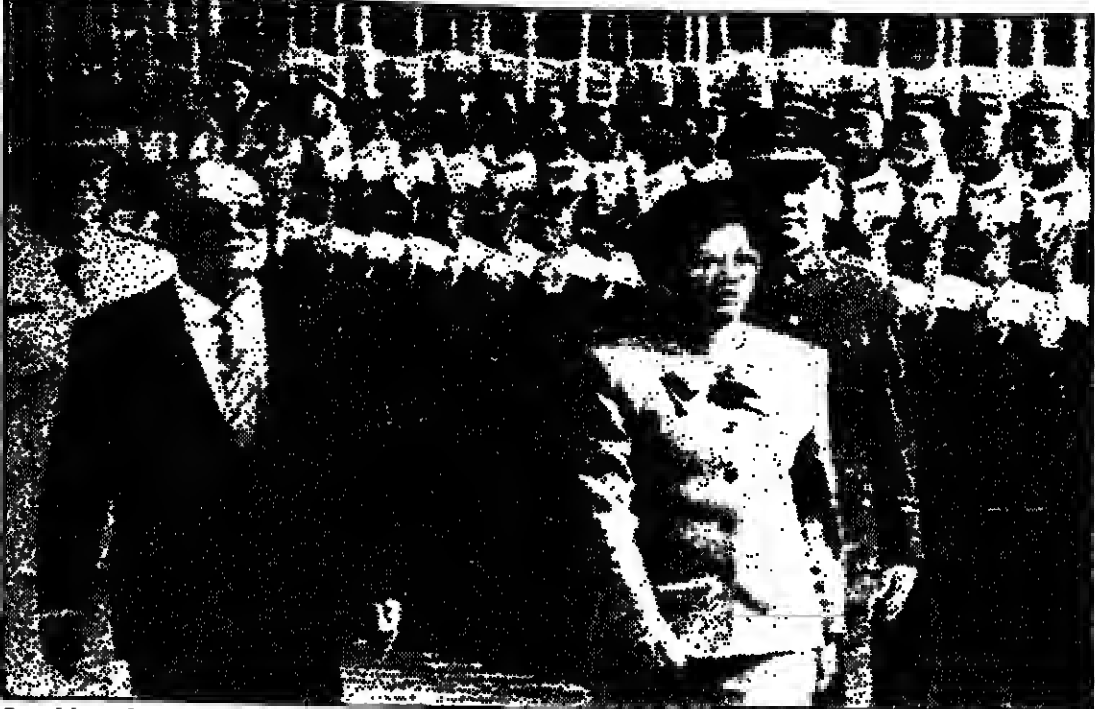
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President Aquino reviews a guard of honour with newly elected Chinese President Yang Shangkun (left) during a ceremony at the Great Hall of the People. (Reuters wirephoto)

Troops remain on alert in Manila

Aquino meets Chinese leaders

BEIJING, April 15, (Reuters): Philippine President Corason Aquino was given a 21-gun salute in a lavish welcoming ceremony in Beijing today ahead of meetings with top Chinese leaders that were likely to focus on trade.

Guns echoed throughout Tiananmen Square in the heart of the Chinese capital as Aquino strode along a red carpet side by side with China's newly installed President Yang Shangkun and reviewed a People's Liberation Army honour guard.

"Aquino, who arrived in Beijing last night after a brief stop in a tiny southern village to pay respects to her ancestors, has had a special 'hotline' installed to keep her in touch with Manila where troops were on full alert."

"Aquino's press secretary said the 55-year-old President, making her first foreign visit in 18 months, was confident the military could hold the fort in her absence despite reports that

escaped rebel Colonel Gregorio Honasan was preparing to strike. Aquino was the first foreign head of state to meet Yang, a general who has given up his uniform for smart business suits, since he was named to the post a week ago.

Congratulation

"I congratulate you," she said. "I feel privileged to be the first President of a foreign country to be received by you."

She later met Premier Li Peng and was scheduled to make a visit to the Great Wall and dine with senior leaders at a state banquet tonight.

Officials declined to disclose details of Aquino's talks but said earlier her meetings with Chinese leaders were likely to focus on how to boost trade between the two countries which stood at about \$300 million last year.

A trade protocol would be signed during the tour, officials said.

Other Foreign Ministry officials said Aquino was ready to brief Chinese officials on the status of talks to renegotiate terms of key US military bases in the Philippines — if the Chinese side raised the issue.

Western diplomats said China was eager to see the United States maintain its presence in the Philippines to counter Soviet influence in Vietnam.

Meanwhile, Aquino and two senior generals head a death list drawn up by fugitive revolt leader Gregorio Honasan, a senior Philippine military official said today.

Major-General Ramon Montano said Honasan might try to assassinate Aquino and his bitter foe Defence Secretary Fidel Ramos and military chief General Renato de Villa as his last resort to move against the government. "His cause has degenerated into a personal one," said Montano, who is chief of the constabulary.

Shamir seeks closer ties with Soviets

Israel to invite Shevardnadze

TEL AVIV, April 15, (Reuters): Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir is ready to invite Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze to visit Israel if the Israelis can be sure the invitation will be accepted, Shamir's office said today.

Moscow severed ties with Israel 21 years ago, but officials in the occupied Jerusalem have been encouraged by recent signs of closer relations. An announcement this week that Shevardnadze would visit Arab countries sparked their curiosity.

"If the Prime Minister would be sure that Shevardnadze would accept such an invitation, he would invite him to come to visit Israel and to discuss mutual relations, common problems," Shamir's spokesman Yossi Ahimeir told Reuters.

"You know that we have nothing against the Soviets. On the contrary, we are interested in renewing normal relations between Israel and the Soviet Union," he said.

Shevardnadze said in Geneva yesterday the Soviet Union was taking an active role in the Middle East peace process in talks

with the United States, Arab states and the Palestinians.

Shamir has said any Soviet role in peace talks would require restoring ties it broke off during the 1967 Arab-Israeli war and arise in the number of Soviet Jews allowed to emigrate to Israel.

"If they want to participate in any diplomatic process towards a peace agreement and promoting peace in the Middle East, they have to be like the United States — to have formal ties with Israel," Ahimeir said.

The Soviet Embassy in Amman announced on Wednesday that Shevardnadze would visit the Middle East soon. Israeli newspapers said he would stop in Syria, Jordan and, possibly, Egypt.

Asked yesterday if he planned a Middle East visit, Shevardnadze said: "I have my own secrets and I would not like to reveal them all. But if it would help matters, I am ready to go."

Officials in Jerusalem have repeatedly denied rumours that advisers to both Shamir and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres

were secretly meeting Soviet officials in Europe this week to advance peace efforts.

Interest in a Soviet Middle East peace role has grown since a consular delegation from Moscow arrived in Israel last summer for the first time since all Soviet bloc countries except Romania severed ties in 1967.

Shevardnadze, in Geneva to sign the Afghan accords, said that agreement could help bring about a solution to other regional problems, including the Middle East.

US Secretary of State George Shultz, pursuing his own Middle East peace initiative, and Shevardnadze have placed the problem high on their agenda for talks next week to prepare for a May 29-June 2 Soviet-American summit meeting.

Visit

Meanwhile, Israeli Foreign Minister will meet US officials in Washington next month for talks on the Middle East peace process, the Foreign Ministry said yesterday.

Peres planned the visit months ago, his office said, but it now

coincides with efforts by Shultz to arrange an international peace conference leading to Arab-Israeli talks.

Newspapers meanwhile speculated on whether a visit soon by Shevardnadze to Arab countries reflected a change in Kremlin policy towards Israel.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman said he knew of no plans by Shevardnadze to visit Israel but he acknowledged Moscow was showing a growing interest in the Middle East.

The Soviet Communist Party newspaper Pravda said on Sunday that Kremlin leader Mikhail Gorbachev had told Yasser Arafat, chairman of the Palestine Liberation (PLO), that Palestinian recognition of Israel was essential for Middle East peace. They had talks in Moscow on Saturday.

But Arafat said yesterday during a trip to Kuwait that Gorbachev had not asked him to recognise Israel.

"What he said was: 'The Palestinian people have a right to self-determination like the Israeli people and have the right to form an independent state...'

Sabotage caused arms dump blast: Zia

ISLAMABAD, April 15, (AP): President Zia-ul-Haq said yesterday that the explosion at the ammunition dump which killed 96 people was sabotage but denied that the weapons were earmarked for Afghan rebels.

"My personal assessment is that it couldn't be anything but a very effective way of sabotage," Zia told reporters at a briefing at the President House.

"Somebody who is not in line with us," was responsible, he explained. But declined to go into details because "I don't want to humiliate the inquiries" now being conducted on Sunday's explosion at the Ojeri Army Camp located between the twin cities of Islamabad and Rawalpindi.

He said it was only speculation the reports that the weapons at the dump were destined for the mujahedeen. He stressed the depot was used only by the Pakistani Army.

He said that whoever was responsible was looking for the Pakistani military as a target. "Not only to have financial loss but perhaps a reflection on the military too."

Eyewitnesses spotted burning trucks near the dump bearing Afghan license plates and some of the empty casings which strayed around the two cities allegedly had Chinese markings.

Meanwhile, an Afghan rebel arms dump exploded in a Pakistani border area killing at least six people and injuring up to 50, residents of the area said yesterday.

They said the explosion at an Afghan refugee camp near Baluchistan province's remote border town of Chaman occurred on Wednesday night. There was no immediate information what caused it.

All the casualties were Afghan exiles, who were hit by rockets or shrapnel, the residents said.

No government comment was immediately available.

Life was returning to normal in the twin cities of Islamabad and Rawalpindi, five days after they were battered by thousands of missiles, rockets, bombs and other lethal projectiles from a burning Army ammunition dump, leaving behind a trail of death and destruction.

Reagan and Thatcher sued for Libya raid

WASHINGTON, April 15, (Reuters): Former US Attorney General Ramsey Clark said yesterday he had filed a lawsuit against President Reagan and British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher seeking compensation for 55 Libyans killed or injured in a US bombing raid on Tripoli two years ago.

Clark accused Reagan of building up a false case campaign to justify killing Libyans in a bombing raid timed for US television news programmes. He also called the raid in April 1986 an attempt to assassinate Libyan leader Muammar Khaddafi.

"The President has no power to kill whomever he wants, to bomb civilian populations after deliberately building up a hate campaign against the country, and timing it for a television programme," Clark said in a press conference.

Compensation He said he filed the suit in US federal district court in Washington on Wednesday against Reagan, Thatcher, other officials, and pilots who conducted the raid, for compensation for 15 Libyans killed and 40 injured.

Clark said the compensation would total between \$75 million and \$100 million. He said Thatcher was sued because she allowed US bombers to fly from British bases for the raid. He said American pilots were sued for not refusing to carry out what he called Reagan's illegal order to bomb Tripoli in peacetime. Clark said Reagan and his aides falsely accused Libya of sending "death squads" to the United States and of directing the bombing of a West German discotheque to justify the raid. He also said the raid was timed to coincide with evening news programmes on American Network Television.

Ershad asks opposition to talks

DHAKA, April 15, (Reuters): Bangladesh President Hossain Mohammad Ershad appealed to opposition groups to abandon plans for yet another general strike and said he would listen to reasonable proposals to resolve the differences.

The opposition has called an eight-hour general strike on April 25 that would be the 27th general strike called since November to topple the former general who seized power in a 1982 coup.

"We have seen in the past that bantals (strikes) and agitations could not produce anything positive. Rather they have increased the miseries of the people," Ershad told a closed-door meeting of the ruling Jatiya party on Thursday.

"I urge all to come forward with open minds to build national unity by forgetting past differences, and there would be no dearth of sincerity on my part if anyone comes up with reasonable proposals," he was later reported by the official BSS news agency as saying.

But leaders of the opposition coalition of 21 parties seemed to exclude any possibility of talks with the government.

Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina urged her followers on Thursday to take a fresh vow for "breaking the chains of autocracy and exploitation."

Mubarak, Hussein discuss peace

AMMAN, April 15, (Reuters): King Hussein and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak discussed ways to bring peace to the Middle East yesterday, the official news agency Petra said.

It said the two sides discussed the four-month-old Palestinian anti-Israel uprising in the occupied territories, the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestine problem.

They "shared identical views" on holding an international peace conference on the Middle East, Petra said. Their talks attended by senior Jordanian and Egyptian officials.

"An international peace conference with the participation of the five permanent UN Security Council members and all parties to the conflict including the PLO is the only means to achieve just peace in the region," Petra quoted the two sides as saying.

A senior Jordanian official said the talks would cover proposals made by US Secretary of State George Shultz to regional leaders during a six-day tour of the Middle East last week and Jordan's response to them.

Formula

Washington wants a non-binding international conference leading to direct Arab-Israeli talks on interim Palestinian self-rule in the West Bank and Gaza Strip followed by negotiations on a final settlement.

King Hussein gave Shultz a letter last week setting out Jordan's principles, which include Israeli withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories and Palestinian self-determination.

He said Jordan would not substitute for the PLO at any talks. Earlier, a high-ranking Jordanian official said that Mubarak was here "to coordinate with King Hussein their countries' positions."

Sikhs kill Hindu family

CHANDIGARH, April 15, (UPI): Sikh militants stormed into a home of a Hindu family in northern Punjab and opened fire with assault rifles, killing six people in a hail of bullets, police said today.

The latest fatalities took to at least 794 the number of people killed this year by Sikh extremists, who are fighting to convert Sikh-dominated Punjab into an independent nation named "Khalistan."

Police said the massacre occurred before dawn yesterday when five Sikh gunmen burst into the home of Jagdish, a Hindu villager living in Muradpur, 170 km northwest of the state capital of Chandigarh.

The assailants sprayed the living room with indiscriminate fire, killing Jagdish and five members of his family present, they said.

Officers recovered from the killing site spent shells from Chinese-made assault rifles, weapons and ammunition.

Floods cut Turkey-Iraq highway

ANKARA, April 15, (Reuters): The main highway linking Turkey and Iraq, used by 5,000 goods vehicles a day, was cut today after a Turkish road bridge collapsed in heavy floods, officials said.

Six people, including four children, were reported drowned in floods following torrential rain which left several thousand people homeless in southeastern Turkey.

State-run Turkish Radio said the collapsed Nerdus Bridge was near Silopi, 40 km from the remote Mahur frontier crossing point over the Hezli River between Turkey and Iraq.

Long queues of mainly petrol tankers built up on both sides of the Habur post.

Iraq, whose main Gulf outlets were blocked early in its war with Iran, sends about 70,000 barrels per day (bpd) of crude oil and products by road over the border for export from Turkey.

Lebanese workers ignore strike call

BEIRUT, April 15, (Reuters): Workers in strife-torn Lebanon ignored a call to strike today in defiance of a call to strike which normally closes doors and shutters across the country.

More than half the shops in the Lebanese capital opened for business and witnesses said other areas of the war-racked country also observed only a partial strike.

The General Labour Federation (GLF) called the strike to back a demand for a 310 per cent increase in salaries.

Enough More than a dozen strike calls in the past year have all been almost 100 per cent backed.

Today, some 60 per cent of Beirut's shops opened, along with some private firms, bakeries, private schools, and petrol stations.

Banks, public institutions and newspapers shut down for the

two-day strike but traffic in Beirut's streets appeared normal as many people drove to work in defiance of a call to strike which normally closes doors and shutters across the country.

"We have had enough to these fruitless strikes. We have to make money and strikes will definitely not help," said a shop owner in West Beirut.

"We urge all employees to go to work to spare the country a new economic crisis and more stoppages which will obstruct production and yield negative results," said a statement by the Administrative Committee of the Commercial Federation Union (ACCFU) yesterday.

The ACCFU, grouping merchants and businessmen, said "in order to reach the pay day and find ourselves able to pay the salaries of our employees, we announce our decision not to abide by the strike."

Geagea opposes outside solutions

US-Syria peace bid dismissed

HALAT, Lebanon, April 15, (Reuters): A Lebanese Christian militia leader has dismissed joint American-Syrian talks to reconcile the country's warring factions and ensure smooth presidential elections in the summer.

"All solutions coming from the outside will not be allowed to pass across any of our front lines," said Samir Geagea, leader of the hardline Christian Lebanese Forces (LF) militia.

Proposals

"To those expecting results from papers flying in diplomatic bags, we say the negotiations will be in Lebanon and in the Lebanese language," he said.

Geagea, a staunch rival to Syria's powerbroker role in Lebanon, was addressing a rally at his northern Christian village,

32 km north of Beirut, to mark the 13th anniversary of the civil war which broke out on April 13, 1975.

In a show of force, more than 3,500 of Geagea's militiamen took part in a military parade at the rally.

Since last month, US Under-Secretary of State, Richard Murphy and department aide April Glaspie, have been carrying proposals for political reforms from Lebanese President Amin Gemayel to Syrian President Hafez Al Assad.

It was Washington's first open role in Lebanon since 1983 when Syria blocked a US-backed Lebanese-Israeli troop withdrawal pact which diminished US influence in the country.

Political analysts say the LF militia had been angered by not being given any part in the latest

move for peace in the country. More than 10,000 LF militiamen control most of the country's Christian areas.

Geagea said his militia would never accept a new President with loyalties to Syria, which has more than 25,000 troops in the north, east and West Beirut.

Last Friday Gemayel held three-hour talks with American Secretary of State George Shultz in Cyprus to discuss Shultz's talks with Assad on Lebanon.

Gemayel strained his ties with Assad in 1986 when he refused to endorse a Syrian-negotiated plan to end the war by giving Muslims more say in a political system favouring the minority Christians.

Gemayel ends his six-year term in the summer when the 77-member parliament will elect a new head of state.

Hamadi could be sentenced to life

FRANKFURT, April 15, (AP): A Frankfurt court spokesman on Thursday confirmed reports from Washington that suspected TWA hijacker Mohammed Hamadi could be sentenced to life imprisonment even if he is tried by a juvenile court.

State Department spokesman Charles Redman said West German officials had told US authorities that Hamadi could be sentenced as an adult by the juvenile court and receive a life term if found guilty on murder and air piracy charges.

Hesse state court spokesman Thomas Kehren said the juvenile court could determine to deal with Hamadi as an adult.

"The juvenile court in fact has more leeway in handling this case

and sentencing him if he's found guilty," Kehren told the Associated Press in a telephone interview.

"If it determines Hamadi was more juvenile than adolescent, the maximum sentence is 10 years. If found more adolescent than an adult, 10 to 15 years, and if the court decided he was an adult, up to life imprisonment," Kehren said.

Environment

West German law defines a juvenile as anyone under 18 years of age, an adolescent 18 to 21 years old, and adults 21 years and over. But personality development and family environment also play a role in determining what category is applicable. The

Frankfurt Allgemeine newspaper said on Thursday.

Hamadi is awaiting trial in West Germany on charges that he led the hijacking of TWA's Athens-to-Rome flight 847 in June 1985 and forced it to land in Beirut. US Navy diver Robert Stethem was shot to death during that ordeal, and 39 Americans were held hostage for 17 days.

Hesse state prosecutor files list Hamadi's birth date as June 13, 1964, which would have made him 21 the day the hijacking began on June 14, 1985.

The United States asked West Germany to extradite Hamadi to face murder and hijacking, but the West Germans turned down the request and said he would be tried here instead.

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No purchase is required, so do not delay! Fill in the answers today — with Alba, the time is now!

RAMADAN QUIZ

- When was oil discovered in Kuwait?
a. 1936, b. 1938, c. 1935, d. 1941.
- Where are ALBA watches manufactured?
a. Switzerland, b. Japan, c. France, d. Germany.
- Which is the biggest island of Kuwait?
a. Falaika, b. Om Al Mardam, c. Bubiyan, d. Om Al Narmal.
- Who is the ALBA watch manufacturing Co.?
a. Tokyo Ltd., b. Hattori Seiko, c. Seiko, d. N.E.C.
- What is the time difference between Kuwait and Japan during summer time?
a. +7 hours, b. +6 hours, c. +5 1/2 hours, d. +8 hours.
- When were the Kuwait Towers inaugurated and how tall is the largest tower?
a. 1976 and 186 meters, b. 1979 and 187 meters, c. 1977 and 186 meters, d. 1976 and 188 meters.
- What are the ALBA logo colours?
a. Blue & Black, b. Blue & Yellow, c. Yellow & Black, d. Yellow & Red.

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Advisory council formed to study health issues

AN ADVISORY council has been formed recently by Kuwait's Ministry of Public Health to study health issues and make necessary proposals aimed at improving the country's health services.

Issues such as the revision and establishment of health strategies, the expansion of health services, health research and studies, the development of an organisation structure in ministry hospitals and revision of the medical health distribution and modernisation of the health management systems are among those the council will be charged to study.

The council, with represen-

tatives from various medical specialisations, is chaired by the Minister of Public Health Dr Abdul Razzak Al Abdul Razzak with the ministry Undersecretary Dr Nael Al Naqib as deputy chairman.

The health minister has also issued a decision forming a technical committee for the endorsement and registration of imported veterinary medicines.

Meanwhile, Kuwait's Farwaniya health area celebrated International Health Day and Kuwait Health Week with a health exhibit, musical programmes and a prize distribution for those participating in the day's activities.

Dr Jassen Hussein, the Assistant Undersecretary of the Health Ministry for Dentistry Affairs, speaking at the celebration, said that if the country is to enjoy "health for all" as this year's slogan suggests, then smoking must be controlled. He said that the Anti-smoking Society had been established in 1980 to make people more aware of the dangers of smoking to overall health.

Dr Noel Elias, the Head of Foreign Medical Services in the Farwaniya health area, speaking on the occasion, said people must cooperate with the state in achieving health for all of the country's citizens.

Contracts signed

ABU DHABI, April 15, (Kuna): Chinese companies participating in an international exhibition in the United Arab Emirates have signed contracts worth \$10 million in the two week period.

A press release by the Chinese delegation to the 12th Gulf International Fair 88 in Sharjah, said the contracts were for textiles, handicrafts, light industrial goods and herbal medicines.

Four provinces and one city from the North West region of the people's republic of China are taking part in the largest ever Chinese appearance in a trade show in the UAE.

The exhibition concluding tomorrow features the Chinese provinces of Shaanxi, Gansu, Qinghai Ningxia and the city of Xian.

Applied education budget increased

FUAD Mulla Hussein, the Secretary-General of Kuwait's Higher Planning Council, said the government had increased the applied education budget from KD17.6 million in 1983-1984 to KD29.1 million in 1986-1987, an increase of 65 per cent.

At a recent symposium Hussein said that Kuwait, as an oil exporting country, had all the basic requirements enabling it to survive sharp fluctuations of international economic variables.

He said that the country relied largely on oil revenue for its national income and that the economic cycle was affected by the amount of spending, unless

the non-oil private sector was allowed to play a larger part in contributing to the country's income.

He added that this would only be possible through international investments and a focus on manpower in applied education and training.

Hussein stressed the need for the continuous development of national manpower resources and related programmes in the national five-year plan.

The policy of admission to colleges and the provision of well-planned programmes for applied education and training, he said, should focus on the country's national development requirements.

Science students graduate

GRADUATES of Kuwait University's Faculty of Science received their certificates at a graduation ceremony last week. The graduates were from the third class of the 1986-1987 academic year.

The Dean of the Faculty, Dr Faizah Al Khorafi, speaking at the ceremony held at the Sabah Al Salem Auditorium in Khalidiah, encouraged the graduates to contribute to the development of the country.

She praised the teaching staff, the employees and the students for their efforts in overcoming the inconveniences caused by the fires in faculty buildings at the beginning of the academic year.

The ceremony was attended by the Advisor to HH the Amir, Mohammed Al Sayed Ali, the assistant university rector and a number of faculty deans.

Liquor smugglers arrested

SECURITY men in Jahra have arrested three Iraqi nationals for smuggling liquor into the country.

Officers from Kuwait's Criminal Investigation Department seized seven cartons of liquor from a car belonging to one of the men, a KD1,000 cheque from another and five cartons of liquor were found in the car of the third.

The three men said that a fourth man had helped them smuggle the liquor into the country.



● The British Ambassador Peter Hinchcliffe (left) chats with Bahraini Ambassador Abdel Aziz Abu Ali at a reception held at the British Embassy on Wednesday to celebrate the birthday of Queen Elizabeth II.



● The Japanese Ambassador Tadakiyo Nomura (left) receives his American counterpart Nathaniel Howell, at a reception the Japanese envoy hosted on Thursday at Kuwait Sheraton Hotel to mark the birthday of Emperor Hirohito. (Photo by Javed Basra)

ROYAL COURT

Crown Prince phones Algerian premier

HH the Crown Prince and Premier Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah yesterday reached Algerian Premier Abdel Hamid Al Ibrahim over the telephone.

The contact falls in line with ongoing contacts to intensify efforts exerted for the release of hostages of the hijacked Kuwaiti airplane.

KUWAIT PRESS DIGEST

Kuwait urged not to change its firm position

A KUWAITI daily yesterday commenting on the hijacking of a Kuwaiti airliner, reiterated that Kuwait should not change its firm position regarding the demands of the terrorists aboard the plane.

Al Rai Al Aam said in its editorial that "the crime will not reach its goals. We are on a degree of solidarity and consolidation that add to the strength of our rejection decision."

It also took a hardline position, stressing that "it is unreasonable under these conditions to make the hijackers feel safe and secure."

"If we do that, we would be giving the hijackers a chance to prolong the hijacking crisis and drawing a picture for the world that what is taking place in Algiers concerns only Kuwait and the hijackers, while the whole problem is part of worldwide terrorism and air piracy," the daily emphasised.

It added that "we have said from the beginning that we consider the passengers of the hijacked plane martyrs and victims of a criminal act implemented by powers that hate Arabs and Muslims, and try by fanning up sectarianism to divert the attention of world opinion away from the Palestinian uprising."

It also makes it possible for Israel "to deport Palestinians and destroy their houses in addition to repatriating the damaged Israeli image in the US and Europe and defend the entity that takes democracy as a cover to steal the rights, occupy lands and oppress people."

Kuwaiti dailies reaffirmed that the Kuwaiti people have clung together all through the hijack crisis indicating that all desperate attempts to disintegrate the Kuwaiti people, who are bound by one destiny, will fail.

Commenting on the hijack drama, daily Al Anbaa, said the pirates and their masters in Tehran relentlessly tried to sow sectarian strife in the Kuwaiti society which took a firm stance of the plot.

"Once again we say to the rulers of Iran and their masters: do not waste your cheap time..." as the Kuwaiti people are more than all crises, the paper emphasised.

A prominent Kuwaiti writer wrote a first-page article in a daily hailing the spirit of unity with which the Kuwaiti society faced the hijacking act.

Dr Ahmed Al Rubaa, who is also a Kuwait University professor of philosophy, said in Al Watan newspaper that the Kuwaiti public was not weakened by the criminal hijacking of the Kuwaiti airliner because their stand toward terrorism is summed up in a single principle: "We do not deserve the homeland if we do not safeguard it."

GULF PRESS

Promoting Zionist interests

A UNITED ARAB EMIRATES newspaper yesterday said it reflected the US anti-Arab attitude.

"We do not regard it as a mere criticism by a single newspaper, but it is part of a constant US media strategy whose primary goal is to grasp any opportunity in a defamatory and derogatory campaign against the Arabs," the Abu Dhabi-based Al Itihad said.

It said the US media had always been ready to exploit any event to play its defamatory role, regretting that such a role is not designed to serve the American interests, but it is "a calculated plan aimed at promoting the Zionist interests and discrediting Arab causes."

But the paper said it believed that such a US attitude would harm the American interests themselves given the growing US tension with Arab countries as a result of Washington's misbehaviour.

"It would have been better for the US if it had based its ties with the Arab states on mutual respect and honesty," it said.

A number of Saudi newspapers commented on the hijacking of a Kuwaiti airliner.

The Riyadh-based Al Jazirah, said the hijacked plane will serve interests of the Zionist enemy only, adding that it was aimed at distracting attention away from the Palestinian uprising in the occupied Arab territory.

"The Iranian regime by encouraging such terrorist acts, is in fact, extending assistance to the Zionist enemy, which is keen to defame the Arabs," the daily said.

The Makkah-based Al Nadwa said PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat told a US television network that Iran had masterminded the hijacking of the Kuwaiti airliner.

It added that press reports published in Kuwait, had indicated that Iran and its agents had masterminded the air piracy.

The daily urged the international community to confront all kinds of terrorist acts.

Arab Military Production Authority to work out plan

ABU DHABI, April 15, (Kuna): Egyptian State Minister for Cabinet Affairs Dr Atef Obeid yesterday asserted that the Arab Military Production Authority that was established in Egypt will remain Arab.

He told Kuna that a meeting for founders of the Authority, United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Qatar and Egypt, will be soon held to agree on a future work programme.

Obeid, who is also State Minister for Administrative Development, said that the authority has high-level technical and human potentials.

The state minister relayed outcome of his talks with Saudi and Qatari officials and noted that he

was met with understanding and genuine Arab hospitality and the assertion on the Arab participation in bolstering the authority's role and activities.

Obeid said he conveyed messages from President Hosni Mubarak to the Saudi monarch and Amir of Qatar on current Mideast events and programmes of both leaders' visit to Cairo.

He said a similar message will be conveyed to UAE President Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahayan.

Asked whether another Arab country will be allowed to join and the founding countries agreed then there will be no problems.

Muslim committee to open offices in African countries

THE Kuwait-based Muslim Committee of Africa has signed agreements with several African countries to open offices enjoying diplomatic immunity, according to committee chairman Dr Abdulrahman Hmoud Alsumait.

In an exclusive interview with Kuna Dr Alsumait said the committee has opened accredited offices in some African countries to supervise and regulate its charitable activities.

He pointed out that the committee held a meeting in Malawi during April 2 to 7 that was attended by heads of quarters officials and delegates from 25 offices.

Alsumait indicated that the meeting adopted a series of recommendations and resolutions geared to "expanding operations particularly in the field of relief, boring wells and planting farms."

He added it was agreed that priority should be given to setting up educational and vocational training programmes, health and social institutions catering for African Muslims.

The conference, the chairman said, also recommended that investing in individuals through proper upbringing should take precedence over construction of mosques and other benevolent institutions.

According to Alsumait, the committee's Secretary General Dr Ibrahim Majid Alshaheen has noted that public donations have focussed on building mosques despite the dire need for clinics and schools.

He also pointed out that underdeveloped public transport in many host countries is undermining the committee's noble activities for fellow African Muslims.

Reviewing conference activities, Alsumait said the agenda included lectures, closing door meetings and working teams that appraised committee operations such as the orphan-sponsor scheme, organising training for local teachers and translating the Holy Quran to the local languages.

Volunteers
Having wound up the conference, the participants made field trips to nine Islamic institutions in Malawi including mosques, schools, clinics, dormitories and farms.

The committee had been founded in 1982 by a group of Kuwaiti volunteers keen on improving the lot of needy African Muslims.

Its seven-year record includes construction of 490 mosques, 840 schools, sheltering and sponsoring 6,000 orphans, digging up 502 wells, constructing 38 clinics and 16 Islamic centres besides disseminating hundreds thousands of Islamic publications and operating an Islamic radio station in Sierra Leone.

Fertilizer experiment hailed
BOARD Chairman of the Egyptian phosphate Fertilizers Company Dr Sabri Ajjan hailed Kuwait's pioneering experiment in the fertilizers industry.

Ajjan, who is taking part in the second conference of the Arab union for producers of chemical fertilizers which began in Kuwait on Wednesday, said in statements to Kuna that Kuwait's two plants are of the most modern ones.

Egypt's membership in the union was suspended but was recovered following a decision by the union's board of directors.

He said Egypt began producing phosphate fertilizers in the early 1930s and due to extensive agricultural Egyptian land which needs a great deal of fertilizers, Egypt does not export chemical fertilizers.

Fertilizer prices during the past years has decreased due to a high agricultural reservoir, he said, noting this decrease included prices of urea, ammonia and phosphate fertilizers.

Anticipating a rise in prices by 1990, Ajjan urged Arab fertilizers producers to concentrate on African markets during the coming years.

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Zakat House to serve meals during Ramadan
THE acting director of Kuwait's Zakat House Abdul Kader Al Ajeel said the house was preparing to serve meals at 40 mosques during the month of Ramadan.

He added that the house would receive donations from the beginning of Ramadan.

Al Ajeel said that help had been given to 21,500 needy people during 1987 and asked the public to telephone 5638265 if they had questions about giving donations.

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UN chief proposes new Gulf peace plan

UNITED NATIONS, April 15. (AP) UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar has proposed a new Gulf peace plan, believing that the divergent positions of Iran and Iraq are "insufficient" for implementing a ceasefire, UN sources said yesterday.

The sources said Perez de Cuellar made his proposals, which call for a strengthened personal role for the secretary-general in an effort to stop the fighting, in a written report to the Security Council on Wednesday.

The Council had requested Perez de Cuellar to hold four rounds of negotiations in New York with Iran and Iraq in an effort to get their clear-cut support for Council resolution 598. The resolution, adopted almost nine months ago, demands an immediate ceasefire and troop withdrawal.

Modified version
Perez de Cuellar's talks with Iran and Iraq envoys concluded this week. He said in his report: "I considered the positions of the two governments ... to be insufficient for purposes of implementing resolution 598" and then invited them to respond to a new proposal.

The latest five-point plan, a modified version of other outlines, emphasises that the secretary-general himself would set dates and intervals for implementing the resolution.

It says:
● The secretary-general would set a specific date for D-day, when the plan would be implemented.
● From D-day, both parties shall observe a complete ceasefire.

Stalled

● On D-day, an impartial body to inquire into responsibility for the conflict will begin work.

● After a number of days after D-day, to be set by the secretary-general, Iran and Iraq will begin the withdrawal of forces.

● After an interval after D-day, to be set by the secretary-general, the implementation of other elements of the resolution would begin, or consultation about them. On that date Iran and Iraq would announce their intention to repatriate all prisoners of war as soon as possible.

Perez de Cuellar was awaiting response from Iran and Iraq to his latest plan. He has not commented publicly on his talks, but diplomats say UN peace efforts are stalled because of intransigence by Iran and, to a lesser degree, Iraq.

Iraq has said it accepts the resolution, if Iran does so explicitly. The Tehran government has said it endorses an outline of the secretary-general for its implementation, not the resolution itself.

Iran says Iraq must be identified by an impartial commission as the aggressor, before peace is possible. Iraq wants a permanent ceasefire and troop withdrawal to proceed at once, lest Iran resume fighting after a temporary lull.

The United States is urging the Council to impose a mandatory worldwide arms embargo against Iran, to force compliance with the resolution. An embargo is being drafted but the Soviet Union wants to give more time to diplomatic efforts.

Perez de Cuellar's report to the Council was the only official account of the latest negotiations, which concluded this week. He met Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Mohammad Larjani and Iraq's Deputy Foreign Minister, Wisam Alzahawi.

Jassar opens book fair

KUWAIT'S Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Khalid Al Jassar, at the opening of the 14th Book Fair sponsored by the Social Reform Society, praised the society's efforts in spreading the Islamic culture and increasing awareness of Islam among Kuwait's citizens.

The book fair, which will be

opened until April 26, is located in the society's building in Rawdah.

Abdullah Al Ateeqi, the Secretary-General of the society, speaking at the opening, said the fair was intended to spread Islamic thought through the use of books.



Al Jassar looks at some of the books on display at the Social Reform Society's Book Fair in Rawdah.



A large number of people browse through books available at the Book Fair.

Son waits for father to bring a gift

Kuwait and its people more important, says hostage's wife

By Hassan Shalbi

MANSOUR, the three and a half year old son of Mohammed Awad Al Fatri, knows that his father is on board the hijacked Kuwait Airways Corporation aircraft, Al Jabriya. But he does not realise what this means and thinks his father is still on his journey and is coming back with a gift for him.

Al Fatri, 52, is a former employee of the Electricity and Water Ministry. He has six children.

His wife, Umm Naser, said that she and her family believe in God's providence. She said that Kuwait was a peaceful country and over her husband's head, she wondered why it should have problems such as the hijacking.

She does not know what will happen to her family if the hijackers kill her husband. Her son is still young and cannot work. She wonders what to tell them if their father is killed. But she added, Kuwait and its people were more important than her family.

She asked why the hijackers didn't realise that the passengers were innocent and many have children and families in Kuwait. They should understand that they kill children when they kill the hostage parents.

Umm Naser said she learnt about the hijacking from her husband's family and her tears have not stopped flowing since then. She read her husband's name in the newspapers and heard it over the radio, but still cannot grasp that something like this has happened.

She was surprised when her daughter Samar, 15, came screaming that her father was coming back. She immediately left the house and started driving to the airport with her daughter.

On the way she asked herself how her husband was coming back when his name was not among those of the released hostages. She questioned her daughter, who answered that this was not important because he was sure to be at the airport.

Umm Naser said she remained at the airport for more than six hours. She wanted to make sure that all those released were in good health and had not been tortured.

Punished
She said that all the hijackers must be punished, not only because of the hijacking and killings, but also because of the suffering caused to the families of the hostages. She said most of these families were afraid whoever they heard the news on the radio.

Samar told the newspaper that

she was like any other person in Kuwait who believed in God's providence.

She said she sometimes asked herself whether she should not inform the hijackers that she was prepared to take her father's place. She said that her father was more important to the family than she was.

Dearest
Samar said she supported whatever decision the government took to resolve the hijacking, adding that Kuwait was more important than her father.

She said the government's refusal to comply with the hijackers' demands was a good one because Kuwait's principles could not allow it to make concessions to hijackers.

If the hijackers wait to blow up the plane, let them do it, she said, adding that every Kuwaiti was her father and every Kuwaiti youth was her brother because they were all one family, and their country was dearest to them all.

Samar said her youngest brother, Mansour, never stopped asking questions day and night. She didn't want to lie to him so she told him the truth each time. He would stop asking when death was mentioned, but he was still very young and did not understand the meaning of death.

Lecture on traffic awareness

THE Abdullah Bin Huthafa intermediate boys school administration recently arranged for a lecture on traffic awareness.

The principal, Ismael Al Hadad, and students listened to

the lecture which was given by Captain Mohammed Al Asfour of the General Traffic Department.

Captain Al Asfour then answered questions of students.



The school principal, Ismael Al Hadad, and some of the students of Abdullah Bin Huthafa intermediate boys school.

Nurseries have over 300 types of plants

PLANTS are considered an essential part of home decoration and Kuwait's nurseries have more than 300 types of locally grown houseplants on display for those who wish to spruce up their homes for spring.

According to statistics published by the Ministry of Planning there are 126 shops which sell flowers, plants, tree seedlings and related accessories for plant enthusiasts.

Direct
The director of the agricultural department at the Public Authority for Agriculture and Fish Resources, Jassem Mohamed Habib said that most imported plants can be grown in Kuwait if one understands the amount of sunshine and water needed.

He said most people know

how to root their own houseplants or how to take cuttings to increase their original purchase. The authority has several books and publications on how to grow plants, he said, adding that the Agricultural Guidance Department is available to direct the public on how to care for ornamental plants.

An agricultural engineer Mutaseem Mohamed said that most imported plants come from Holland and some from Cyprus and other European countries. He said that plants imported from Holland were of the highest quality.

Kuwait has started producing a liquid fertiliser through the Petroleum Chemical Industry Company which contains all of the necessary plant nutrients in a liquid base.

Envoy thanks PLO for mediation

MOSCOW, April 15. (Reuters) Kuwait's ambassador to the Soviet Union thanked the Palestine Liberation Organisation for attempting to mediate an end to the hijacking of Kuwaiti jet now at Algiers, a Soviet newspaper said.

In an interview with the Trade Union newspaper Trud, Ambassador Abdul Mohsin Al Duaij also condemned the hijacking of the Kuwait Airways Boeing 747 as a terrorist act that would play into the hands of Israel.

"Kuwait fully supports the struggle of the Arabs for the liberation of the occupied territories but resolutely denounces bloody methods of terrorists which play into the hands of Israeli aggressors," he said, according to Trud.

"I would like to mention that our country is grateful to the PLO which has undertaken the role of mediator in the talks. As the leader Yasser Arafat declared, he is trying to reach agreement with members of the hijackers' group in Lebanon."

Arafat said last weekend in Moscow after a meeting with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev that the PLO would do what it could to obtain the release of the hostages and end the hijacking.

He said the PLO had given Kuwait officials use of its mission in Cyprus, where the hijacked plane was at the time, to help them in negotiations with the gunman.

US criticises Cyprus on hijack

WASHINGTON, April 15. (Reuters) The US government said on Wednesday it regretted the decision by Cyprus to allow a hijacked Kuwaiti airliner with 32 hostages aboard to leave Larnaca airport on Tuesday night for Algiers.

"We had repeatedly indicated that we believed the plane should be kept on Cyprus and we regret the decision to allow it to leave," State Department spokesman Charles Redman said.

The State Department had supported the earlier refusal by Cyprus to refuel the plane unless all hostages were released.

Arafat on Arab tour to discuss uprising

MANAMA, April 15. (Agencies) PLO chairman Yasser Arafat arrived here from Doha on an official visit, during which he met with ranking Bahraini officials on the situation in the Middle East and the Palestinian uprising in the occupied lands.

While in Doha, Arafat's talks with Qatari officials centred on the latest developments in the region, in light of the 17-week-old Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories.

Objective
His press adviser Bassam Abu Sharrif said Arafat's talks in the Arab capitals also would deal with plans for a meeting between Arafat and the Arab League summit, which the Arab League Council has recommended should be held in early June. The tour began after Arafat's recent talks in the Soviet Union and following the Arab-Israeli

peace proposals that US Secretary of State George P. Shultz has outlined on his recent shuttle trips to the Middle East.

The summit reportedly will also focus on the uprising as well as on lining up a pan-Arab stance on the peacekeeping process.

Arafat has charged that the "key objective" of the hijack was to divert world attention from the 4-month-old Palestinian uprising.

The Qatar News Agency quoted Arafat as vowing that the uprising will continue "until the Israeli occupation is done with and the Palestinian state is restored. After Kuwait, Arafat visited North and South Yemen where his talks also covered regional tension due to the protracted Iraq-Iran war, now in its eighth year.

Hijacking has a link in a wide-ranging scheme

IT has been confirmed that the hijack of the Kuwaiti airplane, with all its dimensions and tragic results, was but a link in a wide-ranging scheme.

The very timing of the hijack, when the Palestinian popular uprising was escalating, extended unprecedented favours to the Zionist entity. It diverted attention away from the world public opinion against the Zionist occupiers' savagery and brutal practices for the past four and a half months.

Hides
The Kuwaiti stance announced by HH the Amir toward the uprising in addition to its nationalistic belief in service of the Arab nation's doctrines and goals were the real reasons that spurred the terrorists to hijack the plane and terrorise its passengers whether Kuwaitis or expatriates living on its soil.

The terrorists, and those supporting them, who had committed a number of crimes in Kuwait and other Arab countries, do not really want to free fellow terrorists convicted in Kuwait but

rather to blackmail Kuwait's nationalist stances and force it to break away from the trend that it chose, which has become its fate, to remain for ever part and parcel of the Arab nation.

Hence, the hijack of the KAC plane hides the greater goal of taking Kuwait itself away from its Arab family and national belonging.

The fact, however, was not absent from minds of the Kuwaiti leadership and people who firmly rejected the blackmail in yet another evidence of the Kuwaiti Arab stance.

This small nation's national unity has foiled all means of attempts to spread doubts about its Arab-belonging and converted it into a steadfast Arab castle that shares in resisting aggressions against the Arab nation.

The aggressions and threats against Kuwait only target to force it to kneel down to bring about the downfall of an Arab castle that proudly refuses to surrender or to bow to pressure.

Kuwait, regardless of the sacrifices, will never allow itself to be victim of its Islamic-Arab belonging and will remain the Islamic-Arab thorn that gouges all those who view Kuwait with evil-intentions.

Sheikh Sabah sends message to Berri

DEPUTY Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed yesterday sent a message to Lebanese Justice Minister and head of Amal Movement Nabih Berri thanking him in the name of Kuwait for condemning the hijacking of the Kuwaiti airliner and taking hostage, killing and torturing its passengers, Kuna has learnt.

The agency has also been given to know that Sheikh Sabah today sent similar messages to the grand mufti of Lebanon, Sheikh Hassan Khalid and the Vice-President of the Supreme Islamic Shite Council of Lebanon, Sheikh Mohammed Mehdi Shamsuddin.

All three Lebanese political and religious leaders have strongly denounced the criminal skyjacking.

Poems express feelings

FOR days, most regular radio programming in Kuwait has halted as a flood of impassioned calls pours in to local stations about the hijacking of the Kuwaiti airliner.

"I say, o'h mountain, o'h Jaber, the wind doesn't bend you," said an Egyptian caller from Saudi Arabia, reading a poem for the Kuwaiti Amir.

"Your heart is the wall and Kuwait is the light, and all of us are for Kuwait in the dark days." In the romantic tradition of the Arabian desert, dozens of other callers also expressed their feelings in poetry.

"We've received scores of poems," said Ahmed Al Yaquob, a programme manager. "If we asked to receive more, they would be numberless."

Stacks of handwritten tapes with telephone interviews are spread around the studios. One studio normally used for sports broadcasting has been converted to receive and tape call-in

interviews about the hijacking.

People have telephoned from places as diverse as the United States and Pakistan, officials said. Some of the Kuwaiti callers offered themselves as hostages to replace the 32 who are believed still on the plane, now in Algiers.

Two Kuwaitis murdered by the hijackers, 20-year-old Khaled Ayoub Bandar and 25-year-old Abdullah Mohammed Al Khalidi, were buried in Kuwait on Thursday.

"We say long live Papa Jaber ... and long life for Kuwait and we say Abdullah and Khaled are martyrs," said a child caller, Ali Hussein Al Ajmi.

Open line
State-run television kept an open line via satellite to the plane in Cyprus and Algeria and regularly breaks into normal programme to update the situation.

Both radio and television air a regular stream of patriotic songs as well as documentary program-

mes about Kuwait. On television, the songs are accompanied by well-known Kuwaiti scenes, pictures of Kuwait's rulers or an image of the Kuwaiti flag fluttering in the wind.

"Whenever crisis builds around us or times get hard," a male vocalist sings, "all the people become one word in the mouth of the nation."

Sheikh Abdullah Al Saud Al Sabah, a member of the Kuwaiti royal family who writes bedouin poetry, called on God to send the hijackers to hell.

"O'h you who can make six victorious over 60, o'h you who release worries of the faithful approaching you, untie the knots on the souls now suspended in heaven because of the cowards of Islam who make it dirty," he began.

"... send them [the hijackers] to the fires of hell with God's command."

"We are all with Kuwait, young and old, faithful ..."

Condemnation of hijacking continues

HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah received several cables from trade unions, cooperative societies, sports clubs and national companies condemning the hijacking of the Kuwaiti airliner.

The Kuwaiti Society for combating and cancer pledged support for the government's handling of the hijack drama and firm refusal to give in to the air pirates' intimidation and blackmail.

The science club also denounced the continuing forced seizure of the Kuwaiti airliner, and prayed to the Almighty that the drama would soon come to an end.

The Kuwaiti Engineering Society also flayed the protracted hijack and called on Arab Engineering Union to take similar stance.

The society's criminal deeds were equally decried by the Council of Arab Ambassadors in Madrid who expressed revulsion at the terrorist operation.

Arah and Italian staff of the Kuwait Embassy in Rome, said the savage crime of beating and killing two hostages on board the airplane could not be but condemned.

In Brazil, the Council of Islamic Institutions representing 33 societies and Islamic centres castigated the terrorist command-deering of the Kuwaiti aircraft.

A council statement issued in Brasilia expressed solidarity with the Kuwait government's brave steadfastness in the face of extortion and blackmail.

Parties
Kuwait's Touristic Enterprises Company (TEC) issued a decision cancelling all scheduled parties in its utilities until all hostages in the KAC jet return home safely.

A spokesman of the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Kuwait, has issued a statement on the hijacking of the Kuwait Airways Corporation jumbo jet.

It said that the Chinese government consistently opposed any forms of terrorist acts, and condemned the hijacking of a Kuwaiti civilian plane and the killing of two hostages.

It expressed the hope that this incident could be settled as soon

as possible to ensure the safety of the plane and the innocent passengers.

Impassioned speakers in Kuwait's mosques condemned the hijacking of the Kuwaiti airliner.

Popular organisations of the Eritrean Liberation Front (ELF) have condemned the hijacking.

Cancel
Ministry of Education has urged all public and private schools in Kuwait to cancel all scheduled celebrations until after the release of the hostages aboard the hijacked Kuwaiti airplane.

Board of the Regional Organisation for Marine Environment Protection expressed its deep regret over the hijacking of the Kuwaiti airliner.

Barbaric
The heads of Arab diplomatic missions in New Delhi reviewed, with concern, the latest developments regarding the hijacking of the Kuwaiti aircraft.

In a statement the Arab heads of missions condemned this terrorist, barbaric and dastardly act resulting in the loss of innocent lives and which still threatens the safety of the other helpless passengers.

The director general of the Lebanese Information Ministry Dr Ayoub Hamid denounced the hijack of the Kuwaiti civilian plane while affirming the Lebanese people's support to Kuwait in face of that ordeal.

Political and religious groups and institutions in Beirut strongly denounced the hijack.

Support
Kuwait's Ambassador to the Soviet Union Abdel Mohsen Al Duaij affirmed his country's continuing support for Arab causes and its firm stance against all kinds of terrorism.

Al Duaij, in a statement to Soviet daily "Trud," expressed Kuwait's gratitude for efforts exerted by the PLO to secure the safety of the hijacked Kuwaiti airliner, captured by skyirates 11 days ago.

The West German parliament condemned the hijacking of the Kuwaiti airplane.

Three British opposition Labour MPs put forward a motion to the House of Commons condemning "the murderous hijacking."

Hijackers had a number of similar plans

THE parties which have plotted the hijacking of the Kuwaiti airliner on April 5 had similar plans to a number of other Kuwaiti planes on that same day, or in the following day, a Kuwaiti newspaper said.

The daily, in an uncorroborated report, said that those parties harboured a large-scale plan to pressure Kuwait to release the 17 convicted terrorists held in Kuwait's jails since 1984, by hijacking several airplanes on the same day.

It added that a number of obstacles surfaced at last moment which made the parties change their plans.

Meanwhile, the paper said that the hijackers of "Al Jabriya" which was commandeered on April 5 while on Bangkok-Kuwait flight, wanted to fly from Larnaca airport to Lebanonese "Bekaa" valley where construction of a runway was underway but the plan was cancelled as the runway was not ready on time.

Specially trained team

LONDON, April 15. (Kuna): A prominent British newspaper stressed today that the hijackers of the Kuwaiti jumbo are "a specially trained team of Islamic extremists with links to Iran's Interior Minister, Ali Akbar Mohtashemi."

The Guardian newspaper said quoting "Shiite officials in Beirut in close contacts with Iraq" that the hijackers were drawn from two main groups, Lebanese radicals close to the Islamic Jihad kidnapers and Iraqi expatriates with connections to Al Da'awa Party.

In a report from the Lebanese capital, the paper pointed out that a similar team was said to have been responsible for the hijacking of the Kuwait Airways jumbo in December 1984.

The Guardian quoted "one source as suggesting that Imad Mugniyeh has masterminded this latest hijacking."

It recalled that Mugniyeh divides his time between Lebanon and Iran where he is "reportedly studying to be a cleric in the holy city of Qom."

He has been earlier implicated in the bombing attacks on the French and American targets in Lebanon.

Saudi-US ties based on firm ground

RIYADH, April 15. (Kuna): A Saudi official source has refused reports published by an American newspaper on an American-Saudi relations as untrue, affirming that ties between the two countries "are old and based on firm grounds of mutual respect and full understanding to the needs of the (current) circumstances."

The official was commenting late last night on a report published yesterday in the Washington Post by Jim Hoglan in which he speculated that "a hurricane will occur in the relations between the two countries."

The writer was referring to the American Congress' refusal to pass an arms deal with Saudi Arabia which made the latter conclude a deal with China.

The Saudi source explained that the officials in Saudi Arabia understood the US President Reagan's stand when he was unable to pass the arms deal due to the stands of some Congressmen.

Solidarity

ECUADOR, people and government, yesterday expressed profound regret over the hijacking of the Kuwaiti jetliner and the slaying of two of its passengers.

Quito also expressed its full solidarity with the Kuwaiti government and strongly condemned the terrorist act which contradicts with the simplest of civilised human behaviour.



● The Punjabi Cultural Society, Kuwait, celebrated the 40th anniversary of India's Independence with a colourful function "Baisakhi-di-Raat" yesterday at the Indian Arts Circle. (Full report tomorrow. Photo by Javed Basra)

EDITORIALS

ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

ONE great use of words is to hide our thoughts —
Voltaire, French writer (1694-1778).

OPINION

Kuwaitis ready to die for the nation

IT is not unusual for the Kuwaiti leadership to lead the people in the funeral of the two Kuwaiti martyrs because the leadership knows the meaning of respect.

They lead the mourners because the death of the two martyrs proved again that the Kuwaiti people are always ready to die for their homeland.

The huge funeral procession for the two martyrs showed the sorrow of the people, their feelings about their leadership and their commitment to national unity.

The criminals responsible for these deaths will not escape the punishment of Allah. They are mistaken if they think they can commit such a crime and escape punishment.

These criminals have succeeded in carrying out the plan of their masters who have sent them to disrupt the safety and security of innocent people.

They have been sent to divert the attention of the world from other crimes, such as those committed on the war front of the Iraq-Iran war and those committed by the Israelis against the youth of Palestine.

These crimes are perpetrated by the merchants of death in Tehran and their allies, the Israelis.

The hijackers, slaves of their masters, have succeeded in harming the religion of Islam as their masters have ordered. And they have diverted attention from the death of thousands of Iranian Muslim youth, who fight on the front against Iraq, because of Iran's insistence on continuing this losing war.

The Kuwaiti people have told the government that it should not relent to the blackmail demands of the hijackers — nor should it hesitate to punish those who have killed innocent people.

In Kuwait, we will remember for many days the cruelty of the hijackers in throwing the bodies of the two Kuwaiti martyrs to the ground from the plane.

We will remember and we will call the plane "The Plane of Martyrs", in honour of the martyrs of Kuwait who refused the blackmail demands.

These criminals will not escape the punishment of the people. People are fed up with the leniency shown to such criminals. Dealing with such criminals can never be done in a humanitarian way.

The Kuwaiti people have spoken — they have given their complete support to the leader of this nation Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmed. The people of Kuwait have clearly said there should be no concessions made to these criminals of today or those of yesterday.

Ahmed Al Jarallah

Kims forced out of leadership

Opposition parties sinking into disarray

By Spencer Sherman

SEOUL, (UPI): South Korea's opposition is losing the mantle of righteousness it wore through many years of battle against authoritarianism and instead seems ready for a shroud.

The two leaders of the fight against dictatorship — Kim Dae Jung and Kim Young-Sam — have been forced out of the political front lines after breaking a promise to unify and field a single candidate in December's presidential election.

They never agreed on which should stand aside, so the opposition split 12 million votes, allowing Roh Tae-Woo, the protégé of strongman Chun Doo-Hwan, to win with 8 million.

Now both Kims have been forced out of their party leadership roles. But without their presence, the two main opposition parties are sinking into disarray and acrimony over who is to blame for the humiliating loss to Roh and who will lead the battle now, analysts say.

This means the opposition's political agenda is languishing just before crucial parliamentary elections April 26 will decide who controls the national assembly for the next four years, nearly the rest of Roh's five-year term.

Failed

The opposition also has failed to mount a serious campaign to investigate charges that Roh won the election through sophisticated computer fraud. It has not pressured the government to release well-known political prisoners or pushed Roh to swiftly implement promised reforms.

"Who cares?" said one Western diplomat recently when asked about the future of the opposition. His verbal shrug reflects a widespread belief that the ruling party will sweep the April 26 elections and take full control of the government.

Roh's Democratic Justice Party is so confident of victory, said another Western diplomat, that some party officials are worried they will win too many seats. But with three opposition parties also running, it might end without even a simple majority of parliament's seats, political

analysts said. "If they take control of the national assembly with less than a majority of the votes cast, they will have a plurality president and a plurality national assembly," a diplomat said. "That is not a very good position from which to claim the right to rule."

Splintering

Most analysts agree that the opposition's splintering is directly related to the bad feelings between the two Kims.

Kim Dae Jung, a fiery and charismatic dissident, is the ideological father of anti-military forces, students and labour.

Politician Kim Young-Sam represents the mainstream opposition, equally committed to an end to military rule but less bound to the idea of a social revolution to reform the society.

The two Kims and their followers were bound together over decades of military and military-backed rule by the need to unite. But once they won the right to a free election, neither could how to the other, officials of both parties admit. With the Seoul Summer Olympics rapidly approaching, political experts say Roh will continue to promote reforms, if only to keep the opposition off balance and the lid on student protests.

"Before the Olympics we saw the end of authoritarianism in South Korea," joked one Western diplomat recently. "After the Olympics, will we see authoritarianism II — the sequel?"

"It is too early to call the opposition dead," said another Western analyst. "There is still a lot to oppose."

"Their best hope is a major political misstep by the Roh government that they can use to rally the people," another analyst said. "They seem only able to fight against things."

But the extent of paralysis in the opposition was evident when Park Young-Sook, acting president of Kim Dae Jung's party, was asked why anyone should vote for the hickering and divided opposition.

"We have fought dictatorship for 10 years," she said almost plaintively.

A struggle between atheists and devout Muslims

By Bryan Wilder

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan. (AP): The brutal war in Afghanistan has been a costly stalemate, a political, religious and military struggle that has devastated the country and failed to produce a clear victory for anyone.

The war has been a struggle between communists trying to impose their ideas and tribes with age-old traditions, a test of atheism against devout Islam. It has been a showdown between the superpowers and their surrogates, and a killing machine for Afghanistan's impoverished population.

This week there were reports that despite the planned signing of a UN-sponsored agreement for withdrawal of Soviet troops, fighting in Afghanistan had intensified with the onset of spring.

Perhaps a dozen foreign countries have played some role in the conflict that began in 1980. But the last chapter of the war, still to be written, may well show that the future of Afghanistan can ultimately be decided only by Afghans themselves.

There are no accurate statistics on how many people have died in the Afghan conflict. United Nations surveys estimate as many as 1.5 million Afghans have died — about 10 per cent of the country's pre-war population.

Another 5 million have fled to Pakistan and Iran. The 3.5 million in Pakistan have made this country their refugee capital of the world.

The fighting between Soviet-Kahul forces and Muslim resistance guerrillas has raised destruction of Afghanistan's cities, industries and public works. It has decimated the country's traditional cash crops of fruit, nuts and cotton.

"It will take years to rebuild our country again. It will take a massive effort," said former Kahul University professor Bahaudin Majrooh, head of the Western-funded Afghan Information Centre.

By Klaus Bering

BONN, (DPA): The arrest of Elke Falk as an East German spy confirms what the practitioners of espionage have always testified: The code for the spies is "love."

Falk, 42, arrested recently on suspicion of having passed secrets to East Berlin over a 14-year period, is according to the authorities, the latest in a long line of East German spies who have fallen for Romeos working for West German espionage.

West German counter-intelligence has exposed at least 24 secretary-spies since the late 1960s. Many of them were recruited by agents of the East German Ministry for State Security even before they gained access to sensitive posts.

Romeos courted them, became their lovers or even their husbands, and steered them through the Bonn ministries. The women have worked in the chancellery, the president's office, the defence ministry, the foreign office or for Nato. Some have passed on information from the files of party headquarters for Bonn MPs.

Authorities say Elke Falk fell into the East German net in 1973 when she met a man who claimed to be a book seller but who in fact was a recruiter for East Berlin. A year later, she was accepted for a job in the office of Helmut Schmidt, who had just been named chancellor.

Only months before, Guenther Guillaume, a top aide to Chancellor Willy Brandt, had been exposed as an East German spy, leading to Brandt's fall from office.

By Bernard Edinger

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM.

(Reuters): "... So leave our country Our land, our sea, Our wheat, our salt, our wounds Everything, and leave The memories of memory O those who pass between fleeting words"

These lines from a poem by the best known of Palestinian poets has raised a storm of anger and despair among Israeli liberals since its publication last month.

Poet Mahmoud Darwish, Paris-based president of the Union of Palestinian Writers and Journalists, has symbolised to many Israelis the hope that co-existence will one day be possible in separate Arab and Jewish states, living peacefully side by side.

Although head of the Cultural Affairs Department of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), Darwish regularly met in Europe with left-wing Israeli intellectuals.

The Israelis, active in campaigns for the Jewish state to withdraw from the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip to pre-1967 borders, regarded Darwish as standard bearer for Palestinian doves, a species most Israelis do not believe exists.

But many of the liberals now

mation centre in Peshawar, Pakistan. On Feb 11, days after he made the comment, he was gunned down by unknown assassins. There has been brutality everywhere.

Afghan children have lost lives and limbs by picking up small mines disguised as brightly coloured toys, according to a variety of accounts. The guerrillas claimed they were dropped intentionally by Soviet and Afghan aircraft. Moscow denied involvement.

Chemical There also have been numerous claims of Soviet and Afghan forces have carried out saturation bombing of villages and farmland after guerrilla strikes.

For their part, the Mujahideen, or Islamic "holy warriors," have been known to torture and summarily execute captured Soviet and Afghan troops. The communists, and Western sources, have accused some guerrilla groups of brutalising local tribes into allegiance.

Western analysts have compared the Soviet military intervention in Afghanistan with the United States' involvement in Vietnam: It was easy to get in, but hard to get out. The military might of a superpower proved inadequate against the hit-and-run tactics of guerrillas living and hiding among the population.

Western sources have estimated 10,000-15,000 Soviet dead in the war, the first time the Red Army has been bloodied in real combat since the end of World War II. The Afghan resistance estimates the Soviet toll is twice that.

Despite a massive investment in men and material, Moscow was never able to secure more than 20 per cent of Afghanistan for the Afghan Marxist government, led by the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan. Based on the country's history

Bonn's lonely secretaries prone to spy scandals

A year later, in 1975, East Berlin planted another agent in the chancellery's office, the 29-year-old Dagmar Kahlig-Scheffler. She had fallen for an East German agent whom she met two years earlier on a sunny Bulgarian beach. Like many before her, she soon found the choice of losing her new lover or spying for the East.

East Berlin soon arranged their marriage. The East Germans also scored a coup with the 49-year-old Margret Hoeke who was arrested in 1985 after years of exposure to classified documents at the president's office. She, too, was a victim of love.

Seducted Gerda Osterrieder, a secretary at the West German embassy in Warsaw, is another case. She was a 17-year-old au pair girl in Paris when she was seduced by an East German Romeo.

Hanneliese Reggentin sneaked material from Christian Democratic Party headquarters to East Berlin for years after she met her spy master, a fellow who had helped her change a tyre on her car.

Leonore Suetterlin, a top spy at the foreign office, took her own life after her arrest in 1967 when she learned that her husband had married her not for love but on orders of East Berlin.

The arrests in 1979 of Ursula Hoefel at CDU headquarters and Ingrid Garbe at Bonn's Nato mission in Brussels triggered the



Najibullah and people, the communists faced difficult odds from the start.

Alliance

First, the fledgling PDPA, which overthrew the Afghan Republic headed by Mohammad Daoud in 1978, was a tenuous alliance of Kahul intellectuals with little base outside the capital. It was seeking to impose socialism on a mainly rural, Muslim people used to ruling themselves through local tribal allegiances. Afghanistan's tribes have a fierce tradition of independence and have never taken kindly to tutelage from outside.

The party's tactics touched off an armed resistance movement of tribal militias, local warlords and Muslim fundamentalists which solidified into a powerful rebel alliance backed by the United States, Britain, Pakistan, China, Iran and other nations. A second obstacle for the PDPA was its own internal problems.

Chronology

Here are some of the main events in the war in Afghanistan: APRIL 1978 — The Marxist People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan overthrew the Afghan Republic headed by Mohammad Daoud and installs

Nur Mohammad Taraki as president. Daoud, his family and hundreds of his supporters are killed. The armed, non-communist resistance begins.

MARCH 12, 1979 — The National Liberation Front, a Muslim group, calls for jihad ("holy war") against the Kabul government.

JULY 1979 — The Soviets deploy their first combat unit in Afghanistan, a 400-man airborne battalion sent to Bagram, just north of Kahul.

SEPTEMBER 1979 — Prime Minister Hafizullah Amin gains control of the government after a shootout at the presidential palace. Official media announce Taraki's resignation and Amin's appointment as president.

OCTOBER 1979 — Official Kahul media announce Taraki's death.

DECEMBER 1979 — During the last week of the month, a massive Soviet airlift occurs with 300 transports and 5,000 troops. Soviet commandos attack the presidential palace. Amin is killed and Bahrak Karmal becomes president.

JANUARY 1980 — Soviets deploy 40,000 more troops in Afghanistan. The United Nations General Assembly votes 104-18 for a resolution demanding an "immediate, unconditional and total withdrawal of foreign troops" from that country.

FEBRUARY 1980 — Soviet troop strength increases to 75,000, and eventually to 115,000, by Western estimates.

APRIL 1982 — The UN High Commissioner for Refugees says the number of Afghan refugees in Pakistan has passed 2.5 million.

JUNE 1982 — In Geneva, UN Undersecretary for Political Affairs Diego Cordovez conducts the first indirect peace talks between officials of Pakistan and Afghanistan. Kabul represents the Soviets and Islamabad speaks for the Afghan resistance.

JANUARY 1984 — Soviets, for the first time, conduct saturation bombing of guerrilla strongholds and villages, using TU-16 Badger heavy bombers.

AUGUST 1984 — Pakistan lodges a series of protests with the Kabul government over repeated aerial bombing and cross-border shelling in which 51 Afghans and Pakistanis were killed and 33 injured.

MAY 1985 — The International Institute for Strategic Studies in London estimates the Soviets have suffered 20,000-25,000 casualties in the 5-year-old war. In Peshawar, Pakistan, an alliance of fundamentalist Muslim guerrillas joins a grouping of moderates to form the seven-party Islamic Unity of Afghan Group.

JUNE 1985 — Mutinous Afghan Air Force officers blow up 20 Afghan Air Force planes at an air base in western Farah province.

MAY 1986 — Karmal steps down, reportedly for health reasons. Western observers claim it is due to Moscow's dissatisfaction over his failure to defeat the armed resistance. He is succeeded by Najib, a physician and former chief of state security.

A Pakistani F-16 shoots down a Soviet or Afghan SU-22 fighter about 20 miles (32 km) inside Pakistan.

JULY 1986 — Soviet leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev announces plans to withdraw six regiments from Afghanistan. Washington later says the forces mainly were unnecessary anti-aircraft units, and were replaced by armoured regiments.

SEPTEMBER 1986 — Guerrillas reportedly receive their first US Stinger and British Blowpipe anti-aircraft missiles. Within months they reportedly shoot down an average of one enemy aircraft a day.

APRIL 14, 1988 — Gorbachev agrees on Soviet troop withdrawal and return of refugees and other issues in a signal of progress.

JANUARY 1987 — Najib declares a unilateral cease-fire as part of a new programme of national reconciliation. It is ignored by both sides, and the guerrillas reject any power-sharing with the communists.

OCTOBER 1987 — A survey conducted by Geneva University professor Marek Siwinski for Gallup Pakistan estimates that more than 1.2 million Afghans have died in the war. The UN High Commissioner for Refugees estimates that 2.9 million Afghans have fled to Pakistan and 2.3 million to Iran.

DECEMBER 1987 — One of Gorbachev's chief advisers tells reporters he expects the Soviet Union to pull out of Afghanistan in 1988.

JANUARY 1988 — Pakistan President Mohammad Zia ul-Haq declares his acceptance for some communist involvement in a future Afghan government as the price for a Soviet withdrawal. Cordovez begins a 20-day diplomatic shuttle mission between Islamabad and Kabul.

FEBRUARY 1988 — Gorbachev offers to withdraw Soviet troops beginning May 15 ending 10 months later. Cordovez meets for the first time with Afghan guerrilla leaders. He concludes his shuttle mission in Islamabad, announcing agreement on terms of a Soviet pullout.

MARCH 1988 — Indirect talks between Islamabad and Kabul resume with US and Soviet delegations standing by. Agreement is reached that Soviet troop withdrawal must be completed within nine months once it starts. But negotiations continue past Gorbachev's March 15 target date.

APRIL 14, 1988 — Gorbachev agrees on Soviet troop withdrawal and return of refugees and other issues in a signal of progress.

Speakes speaks out about Reagan

By Thomas von Mouillard

WASHINGTON, (DPA): President Ronald Reagan is an "amiable dunce" and Vice-President George Bush is "the perfect yes man," writes former White House press spokesman Larry Speakes.

In book entitled "Speaking Out" due for publication May 1, Speakes follows the format established by Reagan ex-adviser Michael Deaver in "Behind the Curtains". Speakes opens with compliments, then rolls out the cannon.

Speakes concedes that Reagan is "charming" and "outgoing", an "affable" person who is liked by his staff. But the President can also be "impersonal" in his dealings with others and is a "loner" in private.

And Reagan does not always do his homework, Speakes contends.

Mastered In excerpts published by the Washington Post, Speakes writes: "Arms control was a very, very complex issue that he didn't know much about to begin with and only mastered in its basic principles and broad outlines. He wanted — and got — a breakthrough arms control agreement with the Soviets, but he left the details to the experts."

Speakes says Reagan has a habit of spending an entire day rehearsing for televised press conferences, which he hates. He practices answers to all conceivable questions, a routine equivalent to "reinventing the wheel".

Speakes, who left the White House at the start of 1987 for a lucrative job on Wall Street, is far harder on Bush than he is on Reagan.

Portraying the man who has virtually locked up the Republican presidential nomination this summer, Speakes says Bush is "the perfect yes man" who "almost never" commits himself at cabinet meetings. Instead of recommendations, Bush offers up jokes to lighten the President's mood.

"With Bush," Speakes says, "the popular image may be accurate. That he does not have a strong philosophical base, that he is not decisive, that he is not willing to take stands on the big issues."

Exult Other key players in the Reagan White House also come under fire in Speakes' account. He characterises Attorney General Edwin Meese, Treasury Secretary James Baker and Donald Regan, the president's ex-chief of staff, as small-time operators who exult in the trappings of big-time power: helicopter rides and Secret Service bodyguards make their day.

Speakes also provides scathing descriptions of former Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger, Reagan's wife Nancy and the White House press corps.

Weinberger is "a small man, a whiny type of guy" who seemed out of place as Pentagon chief, looking "just like an accountant instead of the head of our largest government department".

Nancy Reagan has "a bit of the prima donna in her" and is quite likely to "stab you in the back".

One of her favourites, conservative star columnist George Will, is "the most pompous and arrogant among a whole legion of egotists, prima donnas and problem children", the White House press corps, contends Speakes.

Palestinian poem raises storm among Israeli liberals

say their illusions were dashed by Darwish's poem "those who pass between fleeting words."

They say it echoes the PLO's founding charter denying Israel's right to exist and calling for the expulsion of most Jews from Israel proper as well as from areas captured in 1967.

Leading author Amos Keinan wrote to Darwish accusing him of "bad poetry and bad nationalism" and concluded "(but) I personally remember some beautiful moments with you."

Misunderstanding "In a phone conversation with a reporter, you said you had been misunderstood and your words distorted. You told the Haaretz newspaper reporter you did not mean we should get out of all of the land of Israel, only from the West Bank and Gaza."

"And you even wisecracked and said that there is a sea at Gaza, too, and at Gaza we could leave by the sea," Keinan wrote.

The West Bank is landlocked and Israel understood Darwish's reference to the sea to mean Israel's own Mediterranean coast, fighting words in a country where each child is reminded of

Arah calls to "throw the Jews into the sea."

"No one could seriously believe Darwish had the green line — Israel's 1967 borders — in mind when he wrote 'get out of our country, our land, or sea,'" said the daily Haaretz.

"When what is at stake is life and death, even a poet must not leave room for misunderstanding. Poetic licence ends when death begins," Keinan said in his letter to Darwish.

Defenders "What I understood ... is a proposal for the transfer of the Jews from their country. You know I shall not leave this place of my own free will. You will have to come and try and get me out of here by force ... You'll have to shoot me," Keinan said.

Questioning Darwish's words "carry your names and be gone," Keinan replied: "Our names are engraved on every stone in this land of ours and inscribed in every parchment scroll concealed in this soil of ours these 3,500 years."

Poet Haim Guri wrote: "This poem is liable to give the right the parliament seats it needs for a possible majority in (forthcoming) elections ... the poem returns us to the true demons. It speaks truth, poems do not lie."

Darwish found defenders only among Israeli Arab intellectuals, particularly poets on the staff of the Communist Party Arabic language newspaper Al Itihad.

Poet Siham Daoud said: "It is not a political declaration, it is a poem."

Another Arab-Israeli poet, Samih Al Kassem, said: "It is not fair to fail to understand the agony (of Darwish) in view of what has been happening in the occupied territories. One hundred people have been killed, thousands have been wounded, thousands have been arrested."

"We are human beings, not angels, and any human being at a particular moment can lose his restraint," Kassem said.

But Jewish journalist Yehuda Litani, a leading leftist and exponent of Palestinian-Israeli understanding, replied: "Moderates who even momentarily become extremists tend to forget that in the continuous struggle between the two peoples neither is a victim: each is a hostage of the other."

TODAY IN HISTORY

1804 — War between British East India Company and Holkar of Indore begins in India.

1856 — Declaration of Paris abolishes privateering, defines nature of contraband and blockade, and recognises principles of "free ships, free goods."

1862 — France's Napoleon III declares war against Juarez, Mexican leader.

1906 — Pacific cable between United States and China is completed.

1917 — Nikolai Lenin returns to Russia after years of exile.

1922 — Treaty of Rapallo between Germany and Soviet Union recognises Soviet Union as a "great power" and leads to resumption of diplomatic and trade relations.

1942 — India's Congress rejects terms of self-government offered by Britain.

1945 — US troops enter Nuremberg, Germany, in World War II.

1947 — Fires and explosions wreck Texas City, Texas, as French freighter loaded with nitrate blows up, leaving eventual death toll of more than 500.

1964 — Nationalist leader Joshua Nkomo is placed under restriction in southern Rhodesia.

1970 — Alpine avalanche plunges down on children's sanatorium at Sallanches, France, killing 72 people.

1972 — US Apollo 16 astronauts are launched toward moon from Cape Kennedy, Florida.

1975 — Cambodian government in Phnom Penh asks for troops and offers to yield to communist forces sweeping into city.

1987 — Thousands of students stage anti-government rallies throughout South Korea, protesting freeze on constitutional debate.

WHAT'S ON

ARTS

Bulgarian Art Show

An exhibition of contemporary applied arts in Bulgaria is being held at the Dahiyat Abdullah Al Salem Gallery, near Fatima Mosque. Open daily, except Friday, from 8 am to 12 noon and 4 to 7 pm, until April 21.

Ghadir Gallery

Sudanese artist Hasan Hakeem is showing his drawings at the gallery in Salhiya Complex. It is open daily from 9 am to 12.30 pm and 4 to 8.30 pm, until April 21.

Sultan Gallery

"The Islamic Heritage of Spain" is open daily from 9 am to 1 pm and 5 to 8 pm at the Sultan Gallery, Thumayan Al Ghanim Bldg, Al Soor St.

CINEMA

British Council

A feature film entitled *Giro City* will be shown on April 16 and 17, 6.30 pm. It deals with several different stories: corruption, the IRA, personal relationships and censorship. Glenda Jackson and Joe Fitch star.

Admission is free but it is advisable to make reservations. Tel: 251-5512

Kuwait School of Contemporary Dance

The company will present two ballets "Carnival" and "The Never Ending Story" from April 25 to 29, 8.30 pm nightly, at the Mousetrap Theatre, NES, Jabriya. Tickets - KD4. The box office at Mousetrap is open daily from 4 to 7 pm. For telephone bookings ring 581 0673, 8 am to 1 pm.

SOCIAL

Alumni get together. The T.K.M. College of Engineering will hold a get-together on April 22 at the SAS Hotel. Those who have graduated from the college should contact 240 2942, 4336416 after 7 pm.

YMCA Holiday Special. The Young Men Cricket Association (YMCA) will hold the Holiday Special on May 17, Messilah Beach Hotel. Highlights are music by Top Ranks with special competitions such as Made for Each Other Contest, Funky King and Queen. For reservations contact Lancy 481 4914, 9 am to 4 pm, 3981790, 3929518, 310 8130.

Meeting. A meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 19, 7.30 at the Gulf English School, Salwa. A talk on Colour Printing For Beginners will be given by T.K. Behnam. For details call Eric Shaw 3718417.

KL. St. Georges Day Informal, on April 21 at 8 pm. For members and guests. Tel: 3985964 or 3982739.

K.O.S.A. Kuwait Offshore Sailing Committee (K.O.S.A.) will hold an extraordinary general meeting on April 19, 1600 hours, at Fahadheel Sea Club. All members are invited to attend.

Goan Cup Tournament. The Young Goans Association, Kuwait, will hold a sevens football tournament on the first day of Eid Al Fitr at Al Sour Grounds. The draw will be held on the same day at 7.30 am. Tournament commences at 7.45 am. This tournament is open to all communities, subject to approval by organizers. For details contact Tom 2419409; Almeida 4813892 ext 232.

At the Meridian. Versailles offers daily lunch and dinner featuring Continental cuisine, a selection of meats and seafood. Charcoal grills specialties are also featured. Live entertainment in the evenings.

At the Holiday Inn. Al Ahmadi Coffee Shop offers special Ramadan buffets with Arabic and Continental buffets after sunset until 2 am. Sample Oriental delicacies including 'Toul and falafel' at the Ramadan Diwaniya for breakfast (Iftar).

At the Sheraton. The Hunt Room offers dinner with live music by the Trio Paradise. For lunch a la carte is offered. Dine in the Riccardo Restaurant, offering Italian cuisine; music by the Moonlight Duo.

At the Continental. The Gardenia, open from 7 am to midnight, offers dinner buffet including Continental, Arabic and Indian. Friday lunch buffet features Indian, Arabic and Continental cuisine. Darbar features Indian buffet lunch daily except Fridays; a la carte for dinner.

TV CORNER

Ramadan timings on KTV

RAMADAN is expected to start on Sunday. As is customary during the month, KTV2 broadcasts will start at 8 pm every night except Fridays, and on Monday this week.

The Arabic channel, KTV 1's opening timings do not alter but closing hours have been extended to 2.45 am. In Ramadan, two religious programmes will be shown after the oews. Following the oews at 9 pm, Islamic Horizon, giving a brief outline of the religion, will be broadcast nightly. The title of the second programme, *Islam and Muslims Around the World*, is self-explanatory. It will be telecast at 9.50 pm on Sundays, Mondays and Wednesdays.

Monte Carlo, a best-seller set during World War II and featuring Joan Collins, will start this Sunday. Susanne Pleschke stars in Tuesday's feature film, *A Stranger Waits*. New serials this week are *Hanlon* (Mondays) and *Private Eye* (Wednesdays). Both serials will be shown at 12.30 am.

On Monday, April 18, KTV 2 opens at 4 pm to televise the football match between Kuwait and Malaysia, qualifiers for the Asian Cup, now being played in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. All other sports are scheduled to be shown on Friday, starting with basketball at 2.00 pm and followed by English and Italian football.



Joan Collins plays the lead in Sunday's best-seller, Monte Carlo.

This week on KTV 2

SUNDAY

8.00 Holy Quran

8.10 The Care Bears: Cartoons

8.30 Danger Bay: "A Man of Few Words." An aquarium worker is promoted by Dr. Roberts but the employee wants a better grade.

9.00 News in English

9.40 Islamic Horizon: a religious talk on religion to mark the month of Ramadan

9.50 Islam and Muslims Around the World: focus on the life of Muslims all over the world.

10.30 The Flying Doctors: a team of doctors and policemen set out in search of a missing family lost in the desert.

11.30 Together We Stand: a comedy about a family who adopt a Chinese child. In tonight's episode, he is encouraged to participate in school activities.

12.00 Best-seller: "Monte Carlo." Part One. Set during World War II Monte Carlo, it tells the story of a beautiful Russian spy and her adventures with an American writer. Starring: Joan Collins.

1.30 News Summary/Magazine D'Actualite/Closedown

MONDAY

4.00 Holy Quran

4.30 Football: Asian Cup Qualifiers: from Kuala Lumpur. Kuwait vs Malaysia

6.30 Wildlife: cartoon serial

8.10 The Animal Express: a look at rare birds

9.00 News in English

9.40 Islamic Horizon

9.50 Islam and Muslims Around the World

10.30 Murder She Wrote: "A Fashionable Way To Die." A man who blackmails a fashion designer is murdered.

11.30 Survival: "perspectives of Paradise." A look at wildlife on the Galapagos Island.

12.00 Hanlon: a new serial about a poor lawyer married to a wealthy woman.

1.30 News in Brief/Magazine D'Actualite/Closedown



Angela Lansbury stars in Murder, She Wrote, Mondays.

TUESDAY

8.00 Holy Quran

8.10 Pole Positions: cartoons

8.30 Punkie Brewster: A remote control car is the booc of contention between Punkie and her adopted father.

9.00 News in English

9.40 Islamic Horizon

9.50 Lorne Greene's New Wilderness: "The Ascent of Chimps." An interesting overview of chimpanzees in zoo.

10.10 Leg Work: "All This And ..." A legal firm hires the investigator to look into the financial assets of a wealthy woman.

11.00 Omani: The New Frontier: hosted by Peter Ustinov.

11.30 Twilight Zone: "Shadow Play." A killer visualises his trial and execution.

12.00 Feature Film: "A Stranger Waits." Thriller.

1.30 News Summary/Magazine D'Actualite/Closedown

WEDNESDAY

8.00 Holy Quran

8.10 The Adventures of Gummy Bears: cartoons

8.30 Growing Pains: "Higher Education." Jasoo promises to take Mike skating only if he gets good grades. Mike has other plans.

9.00 News in English

9.40 Islamic Horizon

9.50 Islam and Muslims Around the World

10.30 J.J. Starbuck: "The Circle is Broken." A religious heretic incites a follower to kill his own father. Starbuck investigates the crime.

9.30 Wildlife on One: "Birds of the Sun god." A look at hummingbirds.

12.00 Sledge Hammer: Sledge's brother arrives in town. But is he really family?

12.30 Private Eye: a policeman is fired after being allegedly

involved in a robbery. Later he is killed. His brother vows to take revenge.

1.30 News Summary/Magazine D'Actualite/Closedown

THURSDAY

8.00 Holy Quran

8.10 Centurions: cartoons

8.30 The Mickey Mouse Club: Cartoons.

9.00 News in English

9.40 Islamic Horizon

9.50 Islam and Muslims Around the World

10.30 Spenser for Hire: "And Give Up Show Biz." A young man suffers from amnesia after being shot. Spenser investigates.

11.30 The Bill Cosby Show: "Planning Parenthood." Cliff takes his daughter and her friends for dinner.

12.30 Late Night Movie: "The Ordeal of Bill Corney."

1.30 News Summary/Magazine D'Actualite/Closedown

FRIDAY

1.45 Holy Quran

2.00 Basketball

3.45 Big League Soccer

6.30 Italian Soccer

8.10 Transformers: cartoons

8.30 "Out of This World: Every Beano." A girl with supernatural powers has trouble convincing her family that she is different.

9.00 News in English

9.40 Islamic Horizon

9.50 Understanding Islam: local religious programme

10.30 The Beauty and the Beast: "No Way Down." A witness is murdered and Vincent is arrested but escapes from police custody.

11.30 227: "The Handwriting on the Wall." The parents of a boy file a complaint against Mary for assaulting their child.

12.00 Guinness Records: more world records are set in tonight's episode, including parachuting, moving a hotel to Sao Antonio: a new record in eating hot peppers and the youngest and oldest karate champions.

12.30 The Wiseguy: "The Marriage of Heaven and Hell." Part 2. Vioio suspects Suony of double-crossing and threatens to kill him. Starring: Ken Wahl.

1.30 News Summary/Magazine D'Actualite/Closedown

KTV 1 Weekly Highlights



A still from Al Diah Yalahum, the daily Arabic serial on KTV 1.

SUNDAY

2.00 Oo Ramadan: a talk on the holy month by Dr. Abdullah Shihata and Dr. Abdul Suboor Shahin.

3.35 Dukkan Al Dunya: daily serial. Part One. Starring: Muna Wasef, Mohammad Jiyana Eid. Social drama about a woman and her efforts to take custody of her child.

7.00 Madinat Al-Riyah: a daily serial for children, featuring: Khalid, Obaid, Abdul Rahman Al Aqal, Jassim Nabhan, Mohammad Jaber.

9.30 Musabakat Ramadan: a quiz show hosted by Huda Hussain.

11.00 Iz'aj: local comedy, starring Ghannem Al Saleh, Zainab Dahl, Maryam Ghadhao, Dawood Hussain.

1.00 Arbat Fi Muhammad Rasmiya: Arabic feature film with Ahmad Zaki and Najah Al Maui.

MONDAY

5.30 Hadith Deen: religious talk by Sheikh Mutawali Al Sharawi.

8.00 Al Farah: hosted by Rolah Al Farah.

1.00 Al Mawajahat: late night show featuring Suad Abdullah, Hayat Al Fahad and Jamal Radhan.

TUESDAY

All the regular Ramadan features will be shown including an Arabic feature film entitled "Shaqat Al Ustaz Al-iwah", starring Salah Zulfikar, Laila Taher and Mohammad Tawfiq. It will be shown at 12.45 am.

WEDNESDAY

Regular afternoon features are followed by:

7.45 With Students: a weekly quiz show for students.

8.30 Folklore: prepared and presented by Mohammad Al Mutairi.

1.00 Late night variety show.

THURSDAY

10.30 Mama Anisa and Children

12.05am Noor Al Huda: Arabic serial. "Wa Bil waladain Ahsanau" features Hussaio Abideen, Amica Rizk and Laila Taher.

12.45am Al Huroob Min Al Khaakat: Arabic film, starring Farid Shawki, Kamal Shinnawi, Ezzat Alaili, Majeda Khateeb, Saeed Abdul Gham. A journalist stumbles upon information about a murder and is pursued by gangsters.

FRIDAY

10.30 Children's Magazine

12.20 Min Wahd Abi Dukamah: historical serial.

12.00 midnight Al Awaz: Arabic play, starring Hayat Al Fahad, Ibrahim Sallal, Ayesha Ibrahim, Mohammad Sareeh.

TELEVISION PROGRAMMES

KTV 1

2.15 Holy Quran

2.30 World News via Satellite

3.30 Tan Tan: cartoons

4.00 News Summary

4.05 Magazine D'Actualite

4.25 Wa Ma'tasamah: last episode of daily serial starring Siha Salem, Sami Kaftan.

5.45 Open University

6.50 News Summary

6.55 Noor Al Islam: "Isqibal Shahr Al Ramadan." Guests are Sheikh Ali Fareeh, Hasanain, Sheikh Ahmad Mohammad Hassan Nasar; hosted by Ahmad Abdul Qader.

7.25 Nazrat Alal Alam

7.40 Security and Citizens: presented by Nasser Radhan.

8.15 Good Evening and Local News

9.00 News in Arabic

10.00 Difah Yatahum: Arabic serial, starring Mustafa Fahmi, Imasoo Toqi, Samir Hussaini, Mohammad Wafiq.

10.50 Dafatar Al Ayam: tonight, an interview with engineer Hassan Fathi oo Islamic architecture.

11.45 News Summary

11.50 World News via Satellite

12.25 Holy Quran/Closedown

9.00 Alf: "Border Soog." Willie invites Louise, a Mexican friend, to spend the day with the family.

8.00 News in English

8.40 The Blue Knight: "Bullseye." After Macey opposes a plan to arrest a criminal, he is accused of taking bribes.

9.30 The Spirit of Adventure: "Challenging China's Longest River." A group of Americans journey along a river to China.

10.30 Made-for-TV movie: "The Winter of Our Discontent."

1.40 News in Brief/Magazine D'Actualite/Closedown.

Please note that programmes and timings are liable to change without notice.

KTV 2

6.00 Holy Quran

6.10 Thundercats: cartoon serial for young viewers.

6.30 Great Expectations: episode 3.

7.00 Lorne Greene's New Wilderness: a programme on wildlife

RADIO PROGRAMMES

English

Morning

0800 Opening

0830 Songs and Music

0840 News

0845 Daily Programme

0900 Cultural Horizon

0930 Reggae Rock

1000 Our Press Today

1005 Songs and Music

1030 The Years of Pop

1100 Closedown

1330 News on FM Service

Evening

2100 Opening

2102 Kuwait: Our Beloved Homeland

2120 Songs and Music

2130 News

2145 Point of View

2155 Songs and Music

2200 Kuwait in a Week

2215 Rock On

2300 Strictly Romantic

2330 Amazing Facts

2400 Closedown

FM Services

0800 Easy Listening

0830 News

0840 Easy Listening

1000 Songs and Music

1300 Easy Listening

1330 News

1400 Classical Music

1600 Easy Listening

1700 Spanish Hour

1800 Pops

2130 News

2145 Pops

2200 Indian Classical Hour

2300 Easy Listening

0200 Closedown

BBC World Services

0600 World News

09 News about Britain

15 Radio Newsworld

30 Personal View

45 Recording of the Week (ex 9th Grand National Preview)

0100 News Summary followed by Outlook

30 Juke Box Dury (ex 30th Andy Kerr's World of Music)

45 Nature Notebook

0200 World News

09 Commentary

15 World UK

30 People and Politics

0300 World News

09 News about Britain

15 The World Today

30 Europe's World

45 Business Matters

0400 Newsweek

Recycled hits turn charts into archives

Has pop music gone to pot?

By Lynda Black

IT'S the musical revolution of the decade ... as the songs of yesterday become the hits of today.

Artists blame record companies, producers blame disc-jockeys, record shops blame the charts ... but one thing's for sure — bright, inventive bands have given in, to golden oldies fit for their parents' consumption. You could say that pop — what's left of it — is letting down its teenage public ...

The first traces of decline came ten years ago when crooning comedians Stan Laurel and Oliver Hardy had a chart success with their old song, On the Trail of the Lonesome Pine. It was the first of a series of recordings, re-mixes and golden oldies to make it.

By 1987, the amount of cover versions in the charts had reached almost epidemic proportions. The charts looked more and more like a dusty museum for old hits and critics were asking seriously: Is pop dying?

In Britain, Alison Moyet had a hit with Nat King Cole's 44-year-old song, Love Letters, while Rick Astley followed with another Cole classic, When I Fall in Love.

Then there were the Pet Shop Boys, bashing out an up tempo version of Elvis Presley's 1972 hit, You Were Always on My Mind, and even veteran musician Elton John made a timely reappearance to the charts with a live version of his own song, Candle in the Wind.

In the United States, Tiffany Darvisch's chart-busting success with I Think We're Alone Now had previously been covered by Rachel Sweet and Britain's Lene Lovich; the Bangles revamped the Simon and Garfunkel classic, Hazy Shade of Winter; the Temptations got more mileage out of their old number, Under the Boardwalk, with Moonlighting star Bruce Willis as froiman.

But who, or what, is really responsible for turning the pop charts into an archive?

Veteran artist Steve Harley,

Re-release follows remix in the charts at the moment ... and if you want a sure-fire hit your best bet is to re-record a golden oldie. Has exciting, original pop died forever?



Alison Moyet (left) had a hit with Nat King Cole's 44-year-old song Love Letters, while Rick Astley followed with another Cole classic When I Fall in Love.



whose group Cockney Rebel topped the charts 14 years ago with his like Come Up and See Me knows exactly where the blame lies: "Young groups can't get a record deal because their music is so stilted and derivative. Then they go for cover versions because they are safer."

"Ever since the Japanese invented a machine for \$200 which you can plug in and get a drum sound, bass and speakers, people haven't needed a group and they've worked more and more on their own."

"It's that human touch that is missing. If you go into the studio there's always a band to bounce ideas off during production. You get ideas as you go along."

"But it's not fair to say that young groups are not talented. It's just that the rhythm machine is so rigid and they get stuck in a rut."

The 37-year-old lead vocalist thinks we have seen the last of the mega-groups, like Fleetwood Mac and Genesis. He says: "The life span is so much shorter for groups since the

punk invasion of the late Seventies, when youngsters had a lot to shout about but no way of expressing themselves."

"From Malcolm McLaren, who managed the infamous Sex Pistols, down, the message has been that everyone can form a band and become a star. Standards have been altered."

Hype

And all the hype surrounding new groups has more to do with the greedy managers and recording companies than with the success of the band. He claims: "It's the managers, agents, promoters and all those lower down in the recording business who are desperate for success. They are the ones who want to order champagne and bask in the reflected glory."

"They've even got young groups headlining at major venues, when they haven't even played in nightclubs before. They don't even know how to play to an audience," he says.

Steve is putting the finishing touches to a new solo album and he is also writing music again with the original Cock-

ney Rebel line-up, so he can show the youngsters a thing or two about how it is really done.

At the recent Music Week awards dinner in London, BBC Radio One boss, Roger Lewis, shocked guests with an unprompted attack on stick-in-the-mud record shops. He stormed: "They are not prepared to stock new bands or take risks. It's no wonder the singles market is dying."

Helashed out at the fact that veterans like Tom Jones, George Harrison, and Fleetwood Mac still dominate the pop scene. But who can blame the shops? They are unable to return unsold records so, instead, they follow slavishly the charts, rather than risk losing money.

Whatever happened to little Ana Rodriguez hailed as the new Madonna? She was quickly followed by Tiffany, Debbie Gibson, Kylie Minogue and Belinda Carlisle ... will any of them last long enough to knock Madonna off the throne?

Tiffany Darvisch was just 14 years old when she was signed up by MCA records. Now a mature 15-year-old with two successes to her name, Tiffany sees her age as no problem. She says: "I think being young is an advantage. I have a lot of experience, but I don't look at the world in quite the same way as someone who is 20 or 30. I have something to say to people my age."

While Oklahoma-born Tiffany scored in a big way with her gimmicky open-air concerts in shopping malls both sides of the Atlantic, and has a schoolgirl appeal, she lacks the talent of her pal, Debbie Gibson.

Seventeen-year-old Debbie, whose hit Shake Your Love was a strong contender for the number one slot in Britain, has been writing her own material since she was five years old.

The British music industry's loudest pop pundit, Jonathan King has his own theory about teen talent. Disc-jockey King says: "Say a new talent writes a song and it becomes a hit record. Because Britain is such



Tiffany's chart-busting success I Think We're Alone Now had previously been recorded by Rachel Sweet and Lene Lovich.

a small country, the talent becomes a star and soon he's drinking champagne in nightclubs instead of working at perfecting his craft."

And there is plenty of evidence to support his claim: Nik Kershaw, Frankie Goes To Hollywood, and Pepsi and Shirley — Wham's former backing group — have all faded back into obscurity.

Ex-Wham! George Michael is the only exception, King claims: "He's going about things in the old-fashioned way. He has worked at being a song craftsman and a musician. I don't like his music much but I'm full of admiration for the way he's done it."

Sympathises

Top record producer Tony Visconti, who produced megastar David Bowie, along with T-Rex and the Moody Blues back in the Seventies agrees. He says: "Young groups just do not know how to play. They have stopped taking lessons. In the sixties the only way you could make music was by playing your own instruments. It was unthinkable to let anyone else play on your records. Nowadays it's an accepted fact."

He sympathises with other

producers, though: "It's very hard to inaugurate a hit song from the unknown. I know that myself. You can only do that with a well-known group. One of the safest methods of getting a hit is re-recording an old Motown success."

Tony, 43, who has created his own recording label, Unique Records, has backed this up by breaking away from today's sound, and he is concentrating on three unknown bands — two from South Africa.

He says: "The worst thing that has happened in the last six years is the computer revolution. It became almost embarrassing to say that you played an instrument."

"It was very gratifying for a producer to be able to tap into a keyboard and get all the sounds. But I had to take a good look at what I was producing."

"Last time I worked with the Moody Blues, we combined the two methods. They're very professional and you couldn't tell which was which. But Justin Hayward and John Lodge were in the studio all the time while I was doing the mixing and if anything sounded artificial they just went out with their instruments and played it live."

Pet Shop Boys top UK charts

LONDON (AP): Heart by the British group Pet Shop Boys jumped three places to the top of the British pop singles chart, topping Don't Turn Around, a three-week best-seller by Aswad.

The three-man Reggae group dropped to fifth place behind Could've Been by Tiffany in third and top 10 newcomer Love Changes Everything by Climie Fisher in fourth.

Drop The Boy spun its wheels in second place for the third consecutive week.

Other newcomers were Cross My Broken Heart by Sinitta, moving from 11th to 7th place, and Everywhere by Fleetwood Mac, which shot up from 29th place to 8th.

This week's top 10 listings, as compiled by Melody Maker magazine, with last week's places in parentheses:

1. (4) Heart — Pet Shop Boys (Parlophone)
2. (2) Drop The Boy — Bros (CBS)
3. (5) Could've Been — Tiffany (MCA)
4. (12) Love Changes Everything — Climie Fisher (EMI)
5. (1) Don't Turn Around — Aswad (Mango)
6. (7) I'm Not Scared — Eighth Wonder (CBS)
7. (11) Cross My Broken Heart — Sinitta (Fanfare)
8. (29) Everywhere — Fleetwood Mac (Warner Bros.)
9. (3) Can I Play With Madness — Iron Maiden (EMI)
10. (10) Only in My Dreams — Debbie Gibson (Atlantic)

The ten top pop singles, as rated by Cash Box magazine, with last week's positions in brackets:

1. (2) Got Outta My Dreams, Get Into My Car — Billy Ocean (Jive-Arista)
2. (1) Man In The Mirror — Michael Jackson (Epic)
3. (3) Never Gonna Give You Up — Rick Astley (RCA)
4. (6) Devil Inside — Inxs (Atlantic)
5. (9) Wishing Well — Terence Trent D'Arby (Columbia)
6. (7) Where Do Broken Hearts Go — Whitney Houston (Arista)
7. (8) Girlfriend — Peaches

8. (5) Rocket 2 U — The Jeps (MCA)
9. (11) Some Kind of Lover — Jody Watley (MCA)
10. (15) Angel — Aerosmith (Geffen)

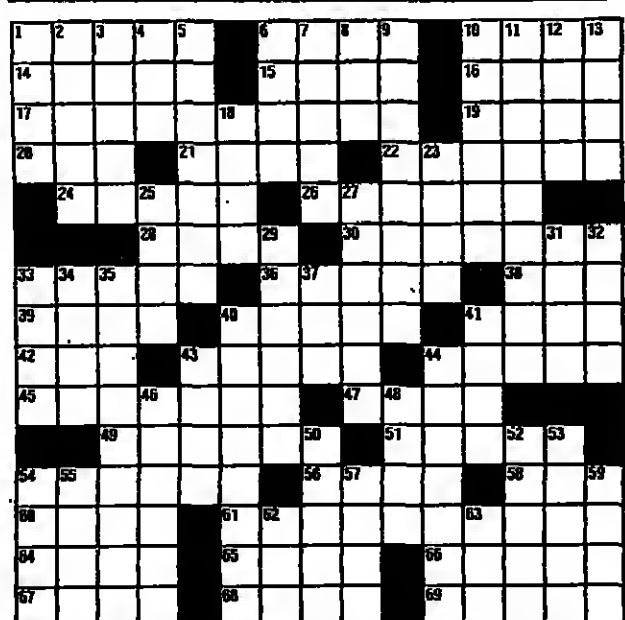
The ten top country-western singles, as rated by Cash Box magazine, with last week's positions in brackets:

1. (3) I'll Always Come Back — K.T. Oslin (RCA)
2. (2) I Wanna Dance With You — Eddie Rabbit (RCA)
3. (5) Cry, Cry, Cry — Highway 101 (Warner Brothers)
4. (4) Strangers Again — Holly Dunn (MCA)
5. (7) It's Such A Small World — Rodney Crowell and Rosanne Cash (Columbia)
6. (12) I'm Gonna Get You — Eddy Raven (RCA)
7. (8) The Last Resort — T. Graham Brown (Capitol)
8. (10) Americana — Moe Bandy (Curb)
9. (11) Young Country — Hank Williams Jr. (Warner Brothers-Curb)
10. (1) Famous Last Words of a Fool — George Strait (MCA)



Michael Jackson: No. 2 in USA

TODAY'S CROSSWORD



- ACROSS**
- 1 Strand
 - 6 Stalk of bananas
 - 10 Boring tools
 - 14 "Kate and ..."
 - 15 Shakespearean villain
 - 16 Do a farrier's job
 - 17 Comic Foxxy/Chief Justice Chasa
 - 19 British pub order
 - 20 Winter road hazard
 - 21 Location
 - 22 Knocks down
 - 24 Campar's route
 - 26 Juvenal work
 - 28 Coarsa file
 - 30 Picks out
 - 32 Nose of a sort
 - 36 Backwards: Prefix
 - 38 Coach
 - 39 Paragonian
 - 39 Israeli statesman
 - 40 Trigonometric functions
 - 41 Whirled
 - 42 Endless time period
 - 43 Take the helm
 - 44 "R.U.R." playwright
 - 45 Vulnerable car parts
 - 47 Monologist
 - 49 Copyright law violator
 - 51 Philist Islands visitors
 - 54 Split
 - 56 Flower holder
 - 58 Cry's partner
 - 60 Actor Rob
 - 61 Poet Edgar/
- DOWN**
- 3 Outlaw Belle
 - 4 Rough time for Caesar
 - 5 Anglo-Saxon slava
 - 6 Lets up
 - 7 Saucy
 - 8 Pro — (in proportion)
 - 9 Bowler's mark
 - 10 Seaport on the Adriatic
 - 11 Place in office
 - 12 European tree
 - 13 El — Spanish hero
 - 14 Revolutionary
 - 15 Wer mercenary
 - 16 Stream deposit
 - 17 Subdues
 - 18 Roles for Karlott
 - 19 Be ambitious
 - 20 E.B. or T.E./L'I
 - 21 Abnar's creator
 - 22 Ona of a kind
 - 23 Coteries
 - 24 Feels poorly
 - 25 Venus de opus
 - 26 Flaherty's "Man of ..."
 - 27 Michaelmas daisies
 - 28 Clergyman
 - 29 Set right
 - 30 Went to the bottom
 - 31 Navigation hazard
 - 32 Woodwind
 - 33 "Buddan-brooks" author/Actor Tyrone
 - 34 Compass heading
 - 35 Outlander
 - 36 Room in a casa
 - 37 Dried-up
 - 38 Sometimes they come in wheels
 - 39 Kind of V.P.
 - 40 Happening
 - 41 Tibetan capital
 - 42 More certain
 - 43 Cut off
 - 44 Ore vein
 - 45 On the ocean
 - 46 Celtic language
 - 47 62 Dos Passos
 - 48 Spigot

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

JAFFIA FERN BIA
ELIAS ABUE ELAS
FALLIN LINE FLIP
FELL OLSON ALBA
LAMB FALL OUT
DOWNFALL HALE
UPA SNOOP GERAR
CATT OUR NOVA
THERE MIAMI MET
RENO STAFFERS
OEFALLA FRIA
ALAD ABAD LYON
LULL FALLIN LOIE
IDLE ICAL COIES
ESS TIONS ONERS

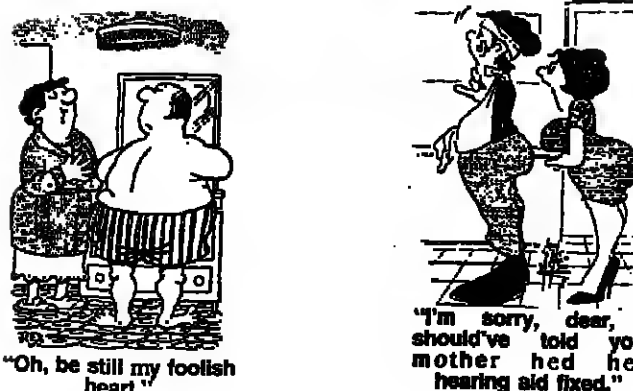
GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

- Q.1—As South, vulnerable, you hold:**
♠ Q54 ♥ 83 ♦ AK1072 ♣ 762
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♦ Pass
1 NT Pass ?
What action do you take?
- Q.2—As South, vulnerable, you hold:**
♠ Q54 ♥ 83 ♦ AK1072 ♣ 762
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♦ Pass
1 NT Pass ?
What action do you take?
- Q.3—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:**
♠ QJ73 ♥ J832 ♠ A954
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 NT Pass
2 ♣ Pass ?
What action do you take?
- Q.4—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:**
♠ 7 ♥ J87 ♦ AQ10932 ♠ A93
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♣ Pass 2 NT Pass ?
What do you bid now?
- Q.5—As South, vulnerable, you hold:**
♠ 762 ♥ K10852 ♦ Q7 ♣ KQ9
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♦ Pass
2 ♣ Pass ?
What action do you take?
- Q.6—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:**
♠ KJ7 ♥ QJ9 ♠ 76 ♠ AQ952
Partner opens the bidding with one diamond. What do you respond?



"I don't like it. He's stopped crying and started smiling."



"Oh, be still my foolish heart."

THE WIZARD OF ID

By Grant Parker and Johnny Hart



YOUR STARS

- Aries (March 20 - April 18)**
You will be able to make really rapid progress today. A letter you have been waiting for will not contain the news you had hoped for. You should avoid all kinds of exaggeration. Be amenable.
- Cancer (June 21 - July 21)**
You should spend less time talking — a little more time doing. You will tend to make snap decisions — be careful. You should do your best to stay calm. Be moderate.
- Libra (Sept. 22 - Oct. 22)**
You should not allow yourself to be too influenced by what others are doing. Something you have been puzzled about will become clearer. You should do something to foster love. Be tactful.
- Capricorn (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19)**
You should not do anything to straggle just now. Make sure you keep your clothes clean and pressed. Do not try to do too much all at once. Be considerate.
- Taurus (April 19 - May 19)**
Your powers of persuasion will be at their height. You should not enter into a financial commitment that strains your resources. You will be able to make some changes for the better. Be punctual.
- Leo (July 22 - Aug. 21)**
The Moon's influence will make it easier for you to face up to change. A good opportunity is there for the taking. You should think a little longer about what to do about a family situation. Be sensible.
- Scorpio (Oct. 23 - Nov. 21)**
You will know just what to do in the circumstances. Make sure you allow enough time for traffic delays. Have a little more faith in yourself. Be protective.
- Gemini (May 20 - June 20)**
There is not enough time to do all you would like to. So concentrate on essentials first. You should make sure you do not lose contact with an old friend. You must maintain your sense of proportion.
- Virgo (Aug. 22 - Sept. 21)**
You should not allow yourself to be invaded by doubts since there is good cause to be certain. You should also have more faith in yourself.
- Sagittarius (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21)**
This is going to be a great day for you. You will have something to be really pleased about. You should give your sense of humour some practice. Be optimistic.
- Pisces (Feb. 19 - March 19)**
You will be able to make the right choice. You will be proved right, but do not rub it in. An opportunity will not be as good as it first seems. Be polite.

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Trade and budget imbalances cloud prospects

IMF sees global economy continues to expand

WASHINGTON, April 15, (Reuters). The global economy should go on expanding moderately in 1988 and 1989, but prospects are clouded by serious trade and budget imbalances among the major nations, the International Monetary Fund said yesterday.

The world economic outlook, a semi-annual survey by IMF staff, projected output growth in the seven major industrial countries of 2.9 per cent this year and 2.7 per cent in 1989.

Revised
But, the survey said: "The risks to the staff's projections are clearly on the downside."

The report, a tool used by governments to help set economic policy, was issued as finance ministers and central bankers were in Washington this week for the spring meetings of the

IMF and the World Bank. Fund officials said the overall figures had been revised 10 days ago to reflect a stronger economy in the United States and Japan than had first been thought.

Output in the main industrial nations grew 3.1 per cent in 1987 and averaged 3.5 per cent in 1983-86.

Decline
The IMF said markets remain worried about the size of global financial imbalances, particularly the US budget deficit.

"On the basis of current policies, the staff's projections point to the persistence of external imbalances among the major countries at levels that seem unlikely to be sustainable over the medium term."

The US current account deficit, for instance, is projected to fall to \$141.1 billion this year

from 160.7 billion, but the decline will then slow and the gap will still be \$133.8 billion in 1989.

The stock market crash in October, which has not turned out to have anywhere near the punitive impact first feared, could still take its toll on the world economy, the IMF warned.

The loss of wealth caused by the slump in stock prices was already likely to reduce real growth in industrial countries by about a quarter of a percentage point in both 1988 and 1989.

Concern
"While there are no signs as yet of a more significant slowdown due to adverse effects on business and consumer confidence, the possibility of such a development cannot be excluded, particularly if financial markets again become concerned about the

prospects for effective action to deal with the imbalances facing the world economy," the IMF said.

Another major source of concern is the difficulty many poor countries are encountering in restoring creditworthiness and growth, the IMF said.

"Rates of economic growth in these developing countries have remained modest and investment has not revived."

Changes
Adjustment efforts are flagging, inflation has accelerated and fiscal deficits remain high, the report said.

Nevertheless, the IMF expects developing countries to grow more quickly than industrial nations this year and next. The IMF said its analysis strongly suggests that the main industrial countries must do

more to reduce progressively their large fiscal and external payments imbalances.

But it stressed that exchange rate changes accompanied by policy adjustments did not represent an efficient way of redressing imbalances and might even be counterproductive.

Approach

For instance, when an economy was operating close to full capacity, as is the case for the United States at present, a sustained improvement in the external balance could be achieved only through a reduction in domestic demand.

"If such a reduction is not deliberately brought about (say, through fiscal action), it will come about through the operation of market forces," the IMF said.

This might take the form of reduced demand for dollar assets, leading to a rise in interest rates and a damping crowd-out of private investment.

Consequently, the IMF advised the United States to take "a considerably more ambitious approach to fiscal policy."

Recently history suggested that such an approach need not create serious dangers of an economic downturn. In 1987, for instance, the budget deficit was reduced by two per cent of GNP but the economic expansion did not lose momentum.

The Federal Reserve, which faces the difficult task of supporting the dollar while sustaining economic growth, can best help by reassuring the markets that it remains committed to medium-term price stability, the IMF said.

UK ready to make cash payment to World Bank

WASHINGTON, April 15, (AP). Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, announced yesterday that Britain will be ready to make its first cash payment in August to a \$75 billion capital increase for the World Bank.

A bank spokesman said that Britain is unlikely to have to do that, however.

The necessary resolutions were passed by the target date of May 22, we noted, subject to the approval of parliament, to make our initial paid-in contribution this August," Lawson said in a speech to the interim committee, which makes top-level decisions for the 151 member governments.

Payment
The first British payment is expected to be less than \$1.5 million, since only 3 per cent of the total will be payable in cash and the payments are extended over five years. The rest of Britain's \$300 million contribution would be available if the bank needed it. It has never had to use any of its "on call" capital in its history of more than 40 years.

The spokesman, Peter Riddleberger, said the US Congress is unlikely to approve a US contribution by the target date. Until that contribution is approved, the necessary 75 per cent of the total is considered impossible to reach.

Rajiv pledges to ease way for Japanese investment

TOKYO, April 15, (AP). Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi pledged today in a meeting with Japanese Premier Noboru Takeshita that he will make it easier for Japanese companies to invest in India, a foreign ministry official said.

During two hours of talks, Takeshita told Gandhi that he would like to "see efforts made to facilitate the environment for investment" and thereby help Japanese companies become more involved in the Indian subcontinent, the official said.

Movement

Gandhi replied that he will try to improve conditions for Japanese access, especially in the area of "procedures," added the ministry official, who spoke on condition of anonymity. Gandhi apparently was referring to paperwork and red tape involved in setting up businesses.

"A few (industries) are resistant to liberalisation, but I believe in the movement and would like to keep the programme going," the official quoted Gandhi as saying. He did not name the industries, the official said.

UK retail prices rise

LONDON, April 15, (AP). Britain's retail prices rose 0.4 per cent in March from February and were up 3.5 per cent from March 1987, the government announced today.

In February, the retail price index also rose 0.4 per cent from the previous month and was up 3.3 per cent from a year earlier, the Department of Employment said.

The department attributed the rise in the index between February and March to price increases spread over a large range of goods and services, most notably for some foods, motor vehicles, household goods, clothing and footwear.

Poor US trade figures expose fragility of G-7 accord

WASHINGTON, April 15, (Reuters). The rout in financial markets after February's poor US trade figures has cruelly exposed the limitations of the leading industrial nations' strategy for propping up the dollar.

Although central banks promptly intervened heavily yesterday to defend the dollar, subsequent comments by an array of officials made it clear that the major participants still had no stomach for the underlying fiscal and monetary policy changes that the markets are demanding.

Without those changes, the dollar will remain vulnerable to periodic turbulence that some officials fear could result in a replay of last October 19, Wall Street's Black Monday when stock prices plunged by 22.6 per cent.

Japanese and West German officials moved swiftly yesterday to head off any calls by Washington for them to stimulate their economies further to suck in US imports.

A senior official from the Bank of Japan, whose discount rate is already at a record low, said interest rates would not be lowered to sap the yen's strength.

His statement was echoed by Karl Otto Poehl, president of Germany's powerful central bank, who said it would be irresponsible to pursue an even more expansionary policy.

Trend

"I think we have done as much as anyone can expect us to do," Poehl said. The West German discount rate, too, is already at a record low.

US officials, who said the improving trend in trade was still

intact despite February's disappointing figures, had no need to spell out why their hands are tied.

With general elections due in November, the last thing the Reagan administration wants is a sharp rise in interest rates that could stop the economy dead in its tracks and doom vice President George Bush's chances of retaining the White House for the Republicans.

Talks

The United States, Japan and West Germany held hurried talks yesterday morning as the dollar slumped in response to the widening in the US trade gap to \$13.83 billion in February from \$12.44 billion in January.

The result, according to Japanese Finance Minister Kiichi Miyazawa, was a pledge by the three nations to increase their

currency intervention if necessary to prop up the dollar.

A senior European official said more than a dozen central banks intervened yesterday to buy a "fairly substantial" amount of dollars in what British Finance Minister Nigel Lawson called a highly coordinated operation.

But with their domestic money supplies already bloated by the proceeds of past intervention, would-inflation-conscious Japan and Germany be prepared to keep buying dollars indefinitely and run a loose monetary policy at the same time?

"I'm not surprised that the Germans and Japanese don't want to do any more," one New York economist said, referring to their refusal yesterday to consider lower interest rates. According to this line of think-

ing, the Federal Reserve, the US central bank, will have no choice but to override the administration's objections and raise interest rates to prop up the dollar and dampen American's strong demand for imports.

Lawson said he was sure Fed chairman Alan Greenspan, a Republican appointee, would put the national interest before that of his party and tighten credit if he had to.

Crisis

"I get the feeling that if and when he feels it necessary to act, he will do so," Lawson told reporters.

But, with the debt crisis still simmering, banks in Texas in trouble and stock markets extremely nervous about higher interest rates, the Fed's room for manoeuvre is limited, economists said.

US wholesale prices jump

WASHINGTON, April 15, (AP). Wholesale prices jumped 0.6 per cent in March, the biggest increase in 14 months, the government said today in a report expected to add to jitters on financial markets about the health of the US economy.

The increase more than erased a 0.2 per cent drop in February. Wholesale energy prices, which had been falling at an annual rate of 17 per cent, rose 0.9 per cent in March, their first increase since August, the Labour Department said in its report on wholesale price activity.

Food prices, after dropping 1.1 per cent in February, advanced by 0.7 per cent last month. For the first three months of the year, beef and veal prices climbed 45.6 per cent.

Increase

Overall, wholesale prices rose at an annual rate of 3.1 per cent from January through March. If the March increase were maintained over 12 months, the full-year inflation rate would be 7 per cent.

Economists said they expect the report to add to the bawce in stock, bond and money markets following the government's announcement yesterday that the US trade deficit worsened in February despite a 36 per cent

devaluation of the dollar over the last three years.

The Dow Jones industrial average of 30 blue-chip industrial stocks dropped 101 points yesterday in reaction to the news — its fifth biggest loss ever.

As for today's report, Donald Ratajczak, an economist who specialises in wholesale price trends, said that "the re-acceleration of commodity inflation after a one-month hiatus may be greeted with some concern on the credit markets."

Gains

"The widespread nature of these price changes suggests that inflation pressures may be intensifying," he said.

Reflecting the broad nature of March's price gains, the Labour Department said that its index of wholesale prices for consumer goods other than food and energy rose 0.4 per cent, compared with a 0.3 per cent increase in February.

Because food and energy prices can fluctuate greatly from month to month, analysts look to the calculation that excludes them as providing a good underlying indication of inflationary pressures. For the first three months of 1988, wholesale prices for goods other than food and energy rose at an annual rate of 5.7 per cent.

Automobile prices were up 1 per cent last month, restoring them to the level they had been at in November before manufacturers began offering dealers rebates and other incentives.

Wholesale gasoline prices rose 1.5 per cent after dropping about 9 per cent since November. Home heating oil prices jumped 2.6 per cent.

Costs rose for a variety of food products that had dropped in price in February. Among them were eggs, fresh fruits, coffee, poultry, fish and pasta products.

Capital equipment prices rose 0.4 per cent, double the increases on January and February. The biggest price gains — above 1 per cent — were in metal-cutting machine tools and office and store equipment.

Cost

March's overall gain brought the wholesale price index to 106.2. That means a selection of goods costing \$100 at the wholesale level in 1982 would have cost \$106.20 last month, or 30 cents more than in February.

Wholesale prices rose only 2.2 per cent for all of 1987. The index, however, does not include two categories where price increases have been more pronounced in recent months — services and imports.

Japan plans to cut overall trade surplus

TOKYO, April 15, (Reuters). Japan plans to cut its overall trade surplus to internationally acceptable levels in five years through drastic economic reform and rapid growth of domestic demand, a high-ranking official said yesterday. "I see a dramatic decrease in Japan's current account surplus," said the official, who declined to be identified.

The current account surplus, which measures trade in goods and services, rose to a record \$87 billion in 1987, or about 3.5 per cent of Japan's total economic output.

The official told reporters that an overwhelming majority of the members of the powerful economic council expect the surplus to fall below the critical level of 1.5 to two per cent of total output during the next five years.

Friction

Past experience has shown that trade friction intensifies when the current account surplus rises above the level.

Some council members even see the surplus disappearing in five years, he said.

The council, an advisory body to Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita, is expected formally to set down next month its targets for

the economy during the next five years.

It will not set a specific target for the current account surplus, partly because the actions of other countries will affect the eventual outcome, but it will set targets for other key economic variables, the official said.

Growth

The council is likely to target average economic growth of 3.75 per cent over the next five fiscal years ending March 31, 1993. That would be little changed from the performance of the past five years.

But the composition of the growth will be different, with domestic demand, not exports, leading the way.

Consumer price inflation will remain moderate, averaging about 1.5 per cent over the next five years.

The council is likely to urge a drastic streamlining of Japan's agriculture industry as well as reform of the retail sector, he said.

Foreign countries have complained that Japan's domestic farmers are heavily protected from overseas competition and that the country's complicated distribution system tends to discourage imports.

Corporation will now engage in exploration

Nigeria announces radical changes at NNPC

LAGOS, April 15, (Opecna). Recently, the Nigerian government announced a major reorganisation of the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) and the federal Ministry of Petroleum Resources.

The exercise is in line with the government's objective of disengaging itself from certain commercial activities and reducing subsidies now being given to a large number of parastatals in favour of commercialisation and privatisation.

NNPC managing director Arel Adams said "the corporation has accepted the challenge, which is why we have decided to adopt strategic management practices to lead us towards commercialisation and more efficient use of our resources."

The plan to go commercial began with a strategic planning exercise undertaken by NNPC in 1986. Some time later, the services of a firm of management consultants — Arthur Anderson and Company — were obtained to draw up a strategic master plan.

It was not until March this year that the federal government announced NNPC's commercialisation. In a major policy statement recently, the Nigerian president, Ibrahim Babangida declared: "The Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation has been reorganised to

become a commercially integrated international oil company."

According to the president, recent developments in the oil industry called for the reorganisation of NNPC in order to enable it meet future challenges.

Under the new arrangement, NNPC will now engage in the exploration, production, processing, transportation and marketing of crude oil and gas. It is also expected to handle the transportation and marketing of crude oil, gas products and derivatives.

"NNPC will also be financially autonomous in its operations as well as maintain its leadership role in the long-term growth and development of the country," the president said, adding that NNPC had been empowered to acquire equity interests and participate in "downstream activities in the area of refining and marketing of products."

Responsibility

Explaining the reorganisation of the corporation, the Petroleum Resources Minister, Alhaji Rilwanu Lukman, said that NNPC had been restructured on the basis of three areas of responsibility, namely corporate services, operations division and national petroleum investment management services will be headed by a coordinator. "The reorganised NNPC will

be adequately capitalised and full commercial justification will be required for its investments," the minister said, adding that it was expected to make regular dividend payments to the government in return for its investment in the corporation.

The seven subsidiaries expected to take off this year are: The Nigerian Petroleum Development Company Ltd., Integrated Data Services Company Ltd., The Warri Refining and Petrochemical Company Ltd., The Kaduna Refining and Petrochemical Company Ltd., The Pipelines and Products Marketing Company Ltd., Hydrocarbon Services of Nigeria Company Ltd. and the Hyson Engineering Company of Nigeria Ltd.

The four companies expected to take off before the end of 1989 are: The Nigerian Gas Development Company Ltd., The LNG Company, The Port Harcourt Refining Company Ltd. and the Elme Petrochemicals Company Ltd.

Lukman explained that the pipelines and products marketing company would buy crude oil from NNPC and ship it to the refineries for processing for a fee. The company will earn a profit through the sale of refined products, using its marketing network.

The reorganisation exercise is a clear departure from the erst-

while structure with five semi-autonomous sectors, headed by sector coordinators.

In the reorganised company, Mike Olorunfemi heads corporate services as deputy managing director, while Alhaji Sani Bello, who was formerly NNPC sector coordinator for refineries, will be chief of operations.

The corporate division will take charge of the corporation's finances, administration, corporate and legal matters, while the operations division will take charge of technical operations which will include gas manufacturing and the petrochemical and international trading activities of the corporation. The third division, which will be headed by a coordinator, will oversee crude oil marketing and joint venture activities.

Participation

NNPC officials explain that private sector participation will be required in the 11 NNPC subsidiaries. Private sector participation is expected in phase two of the Elme Petrochemicals Project which is going to be handled by the New Elme Petrochemicals Company Ltd.

NNPC plans to be competitive in its operations and managing director Adams recently said that salaries in the corporation would be brought in line with those obtained in other oil companies.

IBM reports 16 pc gain in after-tax income

NEW YORK, April 15, (Reuters). International Business Machines Corp reported today its first-quarter profits rose 16 per cent from a year earlier, to \$913 million, the company's third consecutive quarterly earnings increase.

On a per-share basis, the computer giant's earnings rose to \$1.53 from 1.30. IBM earned \$785 million in the first quarter of 1987.

Wall Street brokers said the figures were slightly better than expected. Most industry analysts had forecast per-share earnings of between \$1.45 and 1.50 from IBM.

Analysts also were pleased by IBM's 10 per cent gain in sales. Quarterly revenues of the world's largest maker of computers rose to \$11.75 billion from 10.68 billion.

Customers

"IBM's business continues to improve," chairman John Akers said in a statement, adding that customers had responded positively to the company's improved product line.

"We continue to plan for growth and remain confident in the course we have set for the business," Akers said.

IBM's share price rose \$1.25 to \$114.875 in early trading on the New York Stock Exchange.

World Business Summary

Overseas investors to be deprived of tax breaks

SEOUL, South Korea, April 15, (AP). South Korea has decided to abolish tax exemption and reduction privileges for foreign-invested businesses effective from June 1, the Finance Ministry said yesterday. Foreign-invested enterprises, exporting more than 50 per cent of their production, are now entitled to five years of corporate, income and other tax exemptions or reductions under present regulations, which have been in effect for many years to encourage foreign investment here.

Ministry officials said, however, that restrictions will be eased to allow foreign investors to freely dispose of their capital goods anytime after five years of their arrival here by just reporting sales in the government. They said that the changes are designed to create a fair and equal climate for both domestic and foreign businesses, as this country's economy has become strong and its current accounts surplus is growing. Korea, helped by strong exports, posted a current accounts surplus of nearly \$10 billion last year.

The officials said similar tax breaks now given to technology imports will be abolished from June, except for high-tech industries such as semiconductor and bio-engineering. The officials said the new step is to prevent the inflow of technology.

Debt situation still critical, say developing countries

WASHINGTON, April 15, (Reuters). A group of key developing countries warned yesterday the debt situation was still critical and threatened social and political stability in the Third World. The Group of 24 nations, which includes some of larger Latin American debtors, said in a communique after three days of discussions that a new approach to debt rescheduling with private banks was needed.

The group met in association with a gathering of finance ministers and central banks under the auspices of the World Bank and International Monetary Fund. The communique said the "overall debt situation is still critical." It said debt payments remain unsustainably high, and the money flow out from the developing world has become so painful that an increasing number of countries have suspended interest payments.

The communique, almost a laundry list of developing country complaints and demands, said a new approach to debt rescheduling with private banks was needed. Brazilian Finance Minister Malson Da Nóbrega, chairman of the Group of 24 countries, said banks have a responsibility in overcoming the crisis. "The time has come for them to reduce their earnings," he told a briefing for reporters.

The communique called for a further reduction in interest rates that banks charge countries for loans, adequate compensation for changes in currency values and elimination of commissions and other fees associated with negotiating new money packages.

The developing country economic leaders said belt-tightening efforts against a backdrop of inadequate new financing from overseas threatened the social fabric of the Third World. The communique said it "has entailed serious social, economic and political costs, jeopardising the future prospects for growth and development in these countries and threatening their social and political stability."

Senate approves \$1.1 trillion US government spending plan

WASHINGTON, April 15, (AP). The Senate on Thursday approved a \$1.1 trillion US government budget that calls for by passing last fall's deficit-reduction congressional pact with President Ronald Reagan to expand the war on drugs. The fiscal 1989 spending blueprint, passed 69-26, also includes increases for education, the space programme and AIDS research while freezing or cutting back on transportation, housing and development funds. The House of Representatives approved a different version of the spending plan last month. The two chambers begin negotiations next week toward a final budget resolution. The budget is a congressional resolution that does not require the President's signature. It serves as a guideline for Congress as it produces its annual spending bills.

Conforming with last fall's deficit-reduction agreement with the President, the Senate plan earmarks \$294 billion for military spending and \$16.1 billion for international assistance. It includes no new taxes beyond the \$14 billion enacted last December for fiscal 1989, which begins on Oct. 1.

The agreement also capped spending by US government domestic agencies. The House plan, like Reagan's proposed budget, conformed with those limits.

But the Senate voted 93-0 on Wednesday night to bypass the spending caps to allow expanding anti-drug programmes by \$2.6 billion, 86 per cent over the current year's efforts. The money would go to treatment programmes, law enforcement and interdiction of smuggled drugs. The amendment called for increasing government tax and debt collections to cover the \$1.4 billion that would be spent by the end of fiscal 1989. The Senate budget claims to reduce the deficit to \$136 billion, as required by a budget-balancing law. Like the House, the Senate adopted the President's optimistic economic scenarios in order to show less deficit.

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LONDON
(Alpha Stocks)

NAME	LAST
ABBEY LFE	262.0
ADT LTO	112.0
ALD LYONS	393.0
AMSTRAD	156.0
ARGYLL GP	202.0
ASDA GP	166.0
BAA PP	114.0
BTR	243.0
BAT INOS	422.0
BARCLAYS	427.0
BASS	837.0
BEAZER	178.0
BEECHAMS	61.00
BET ORD	230.0
BICC PLC	320.0
BLUE ARV	117.0
BLUE CIRC	440.0
BOC GP	384.0
BOOTS CO	223.0
BPB INDS	280.0
BR COMM	285.0
BR AIRWAY	163.0
BR AEROSP	406.0
BR GAS RG	175.5
B.P.	273.0
B.P.-NEW	77.0
BR TELCOM	245.0
BRITTOIL	510.0
BUNZL	138.0
BURMAN OL	261.0
BURTON	320.0
CABLEWIR	240.0
CADBURYS	293.0
COATS VVY	250.0
COMM UNL	332.0
CONS GOLD	930.0
COOKSONS	556.0
COURTAUD	350.0
DALGETY	273.0
DEE CP	180.0
OIXONS	173.0
ENG CHINA	400.0
ENTER OIL	362.0
FERRANTI	76.0
FISONS	233.0
GEN ACCID	918.0
GEN ELEC	155.0
GLAXO	978.0
GRANADA	325.0
GLOBE	134.0
GRAND MET	484.0
GUS A	070.0
GUARD RYL	882.0
GKN	301.0
GUINNESS	301.0
HMMERSON	588.0
HANSON	127.0
HUKER SID	448.0
HILLSDOWN	278.0
ICI	984.0
IMI	194.0

LONDON
(Beta Stocks)

NAME	CLOSE	OPEN
2ND ALLCE	701.0	695.0
600 GROUP	103.0	102.0
A.B.ELECT	443.0	440.0
AAH HLD	264.0	263.0
AARONSON	122.0	118.0
ACRE OIL	186.0	185.0
ADISON	97.0	95.0
ADVEST	306.0	305.0
ALEX CRK	153.0	142.0
ALLD COLL	126.0	124.0
ALLD IR B	231.0	228.0
ALLD PLNT	52.0	51.0
ALLIANCE	179.0	177.0
AMEC	392.0	390.0
AMER TRST	116.0	115.0
AMERSHAM	453.0	448.0
AMH HLTH	267.0	263.0
ANGLO O'S	200.0	198.0
APPLEYARD	394.0	393.0
APRICOT	102.0	101.0
APV PLC	107.0	104.0
AQUAS.A	87.0	85.0
ARAN ENGY	73.0	72.0
ARCHER AJ	160.0	161.0
ARLINGTON	194.0	191.0
ARMSTRONG	135.0	135.0
ASHLEY.LA	114.0	110.0
ATTWOODS	284.0	281.0
AUS REE A	224.0	220.0
AUST REE	345.0	340.0
AVON RUBB	674.0	673.0
B.WEHLING	163.0	161.0
BALL JAP	513.0	503.0
BANKER IT	68.0	66.0
BARKER DO	146.0	145.0
BARRY DEV	190.0	188.0
BAYNES C	33.0	33.0
BEJAM GP	168.0	164.0
BEHAVEN	47.0	48.0
BELLWAY	242.0	240.0
BENLLOYD	60.0	58.0
BENTALLS	195.0	191.0
BERISFORD	283.0	279.0
BERKELEY	372.0	367.0
BH GROUP	107.0	104.0
BIRMING SL	376.0	376.0
BK OF SCO	517.0	514.0
BLACKWOOD	51.0	50.0
BLACK LE	17.6	17.4
BLK LE 2	17.6	17.4
BOONE	36.0	35.0
BOONE + F	259.0	257.0
BOODINGTN	130.0	130.0
BOOKER	397.0	395.0
BOOTH.HENR	342.0	338.0
BORTHICKE	47.0	47.0
BOYTHORPE	387.0	384.0
BR ASSETS	64.0	63.0
BR DREGGI	122.0	121.0
BR LANO	304.0	298.0

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ALLD PLNT	52.0	51.0
ALLIANCE	179.0	177.0
AMEC	392.0	390.0
AMER TRST	116.0	115.0
AMERSHAM	453.0	448.0
AMH HLTH	267.0	263.0
ANGLO O'S	200.0	198.0
APPLEYARD	394.0	393.0
APRICOT	102.0	101.0
APV PLC	107.0	104.0
AQUAS.A	87.0	85.0
ARAN ENGY	73.0	72.0
ARCHER AJ	160.0	161.0
ARLINGTON	194.0	191.0
ARMSTRONG	135.0	135.0
ASHLEY.LA	114.0	110.0
ATTWOODS	284.0	281.0
AUS REE A	224.0	220.0
AUST REE	345.0	340.0
AVON RUBB	674.0	673.0
B.WEHLING	163.0	161.0
BALL JAP	513.0	503.0
BANKER IT	68.0	66.0
BARKER DO	146.0	145.0
BARRY DEV	190.0	188.0
BAYNES C	33.0	33.0
BEJAM GP	168.0	164.0
BEHAVEN	47.0	48.0
BELLWAY	242.0	240.0
BENLLOYD	60.0	58.0
BENTALLS	195.0	191.0
BERISFORD	283.0	279.0
BERKELEY	372.0	367.0
BH GROUP	107.0	104.0
BIRMING SL	376.0	376.0
BK OF SCO	517.0	514.0
BLACKWOOD	51.0	50.0
BLACK LE	17.6	17.4
BLK LE 2	17.6	17.4
BOONE	36.0	35.0
BOONE + F	259.0	257.0
BOODINGTN	130.0	130.0
BOOKER	397.0	395.0
BOOTH.HENR	342.0	338.0
BORTHICKE	47.0	47.0
BOYTHORPE	387.0	384.0
BR ASSETS	64.0	63.0
BR DREGGI	122.0	121.0
BR LANO	304.0	298.0

LONDON
(Beta Stocks)

NAME	CLOSE	OPEN
2ND ALLCE	701.0	695.0
600 GROUP	103.0	102.0
A.B.ELECT	443.0	440.0
AAH HLD	264.0	263.0
AARONSON	122.0	118.0
ACRE OIL	186.0	185.0
ADISON	97.0	95.0
ADVEST	306.0	305.0
ALEX CRK	153.0	142.0
ALLD COLL	126.0	124.0
ALLD IR B	231.0	228.0
ALLD PLNT	52.0	51.0
ALLIANCE	179.0	177.0
AMEC	392.0	390.0
AMER TRST	116.0	115.0
AMERSHAM	453.0	448.0
AMH HLTH	267.0	263.0
ANGLO O'S	200.0	198.0
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BR LANO	304.0	298.0

LONDON
(Beta Stocks)

40/0	40/0	ATI
903/5	900/0	ATI
228/2	226/0	ATI
184/4	184/0	AEI
123/0	122/0	ALC
135/5	135/0	ALC
100/0	99/0	ALC
380/0	373/0	AN
91/4	91/1	AN
8/0	8/0	AN
99/0	98/0	AN
51/0	50/0	AN
50/5	343/0	AM
253/0	248/0	AM
73/3	71/0	AM
364/0	350/0	AM
58/4	57/0	AM
294/1	236/0	AM
396/0	385/0	AM
105/0	101/0	AP
16/6	16/1	AP
181/0	180/0	AST
186/0	183/0	AST
119/0	110/0	ATI
290/0	292/0	ATI
11/4	12/0	AVC
158/0	155/0	AVC
62/0	62/0	BEI
556/0	550/0	BEI
26/4	26/1	BEI
215/0	210/0	BEI
205/0	203/0	BET
327/0	318/0	BET
133/0	133/0	BKN
183/0	180/0	BKN
246/0	240/0	BKN
101/0	97/0	BKN
69/0	67/0	BKN
113/0	112/0	BKN
C	46/4	BO
115/4	116/0	BO
351/0	350/0	BOM
36/0	35/0	BR
31/0	29/0	BR
215/0	214/0	BR
316/0	315/0	C 3
300/0	298/0	C 3
67/0	66/0	CAE
424/0	420/0	CA
156/0	153/0	CAS
289/0	288/0	CAS
112/0	112/0	CAT
35/0	34/0	CB
14/4	14/4	CB
91/0	90/0	CEN
73/0	75/0	CEN
119/0	120/0	CH

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

ARAB TIMES, SATURDAY, APRIL 16, 1998

International Bond Highlights

Hong Kong—Hyundai Engineering and Construction Co Ltd, a unit of Hyundai Corp, has secured a 70 mln US dollar, one year loan, arranged by Wardley Capital Ltd said. (RTV 1143)

London—Jets3, a special purpose vehicle, is issuing a 42 mln dir floating rate note backed by ex-warrant dollar bonds, lead manager Mitsubishi Finanza said. (RTYE 1445)

London—Toronto Dominion Australia Ltd is issuing a 60 mln New Zealand dir Eurobond due May 27, 1999, paying 13-1/2 pct and priced at 101-5/8 pct, lead manager Hambros Bank Ltd said. (RTUJ 0658)

London—Unilever Australia Ltd is issuing a 50 mln Australian dir Eurobond due May 17, 1999, paying 12-1/4 pct and priced at 102 pct, sole lead manager Deutsche Bank Capital Markets said. (RTUE 0943)

Amsterdam—US food conglomerate Sara Lee Corp plans a public issue of a 200 mln guilder, 8.5 pct bullet bond due 1998 at 101 pct, lead manager Amsterdamsche Bank NV (AMRO) said. (RTTH 0947)

Interbank Rates

CALL	ONE MONTH	THREE MONTHS
LDN 8-1/8 7-7/8	8-1/8 8	8-3/16 1/16
FFI 3.20/25	3.30/35	3.35/40
PAR 7-1/4 3/8	7-9/16 11/16	7-7/8 8-1/16
ZUR 1-7/8 2-1/8	1-3/4 2	1-3/4 2
BRE 5/75	6.00 1/8	6-1/16 3/16
ROM 9-7/16 10-3/8	10 10-1/2	10-3/8 10-7/8
AMS 4-1/16 4-1/4	3-15/16 4-1/16	3-15/16 4-1/16
TOK 3.3125 3750	3.6875 7500	3.8750 9375
ECU 5.81 5.93	6.00 6.12	6.25 6.37

Interest Rates

FOLLOWING are the average KD interest rates of local interbank transactions as reported by participants to Central Bank of Kuwait, on Thursday.

Period	Bid	Offered
1 month	5/8	6/8
3 months	5/16	6/16
6 months	5/12	6/12
1 year	5/12	6/12

BOMBAY

PR-CLOSE	OPEN	CLOSE	GLINDIA	66	65	66	NICO	477.50	475.75	465
ACC	141	140	143	GRASIN	28.50	28	28.25	MUKAND	84	83.50
ASIA PAINT	135	128.75	131.25	GSFC	86	87	86.50	ORWAY	19	19.25
BAJAJ AUTO	200	200	200	HIND LEVER	65	65.25	64.50	PEICO	27.50	27.75
BAR. RAYON	172.50	172.50	172.50	NINDALCO	75	74	74	PFIZER	54.50	54.50
BOM. DYNAL	118.75	116	116.50	NINDOCO	71.25	70	71.50	PRE-AUTO	24	24.50
BR. BOND	84	84	85	HINDMOTR	16.25	16.25	16.25	RAYMOND	43.50	42.75
BSSE INDEX	406.79	409.88	409.88	IND ORG	16	16.25	16.50	RELIANCE	81	79
CENTURY SPG	787.50	780	782.50	INDORAY	57.75	58	56.50	SIEMENS	59	59
COLGATE	163	162	160	INDROL	136.25	137.50	137.50	SPIC	29.50	30.75
DEEPFERT	25.75	25.50	25.50	ITC	32.50	32	32.50	STD MILLS	195	192.50
ESKAYEF	46	45	46	JKSYNTH	47.75	46.75	47.50	TATA PHR	188.75	185
ESSAR	155	156.25	152.50	L AND T	79.50	80.50	80.50	78 TATACHEM	61.50	61
GAR. POLY	73.50	72.75	73	MAHINDRA	50.50	50.50	50.50	51 TELCO	466.25	460
GE. SHIP	27	27	26.65	MAHESHR	9.25	9.25	9.65	TISCO	680	676.25
									260	260

FRANKFURT

STOCK	LAST	PR-CLSE
AEG	226.8	240.2
ALLIANZ VR	1366.0	1388.0
BADENWERK	184.0	185.0
BASE	246.9	253.7
BAYER	272.0	280.0
BAYER HYP	352.0	359.5
BAYER VER	347.5	354.5
BBC	324.0	332.0
BHF	375.0	383.0
BMW	517.0	531.0
CHEMIE-VER	0	120.0
COMMERZB	230.5	238.5
CONIT GUMM	253.0	259.7
DAIMLER BEN	628.0	632.0
DEUTSC BAK	417.8	432.0
DLW	345.0	355.0
DRESNER B	249.7	259.0
DT BARCOCK	159.0	162.5
FAZ INDEX	554.0	563.0
GENSLAND	257.5	259.0
GUTHOFER	0	0.0
HARPER	405.0	400.0
HOECHST AG	259.0	264.3
HOESCH	118.0	121.0
HORTEN	192.0	195.0
HUSSEL HLO	467.0	476.0
KALF SALZ	130.5	135.0
KARSTADT	467.0	476.0
KAUHOFF	396.0	410.0
KLOECK H	100.0	102.0
KLOECK W	86.10	89.90
LIHDE	605.5	614.0
LUFTHANSA	149.2	155.5
MAN	164.0	168.0
MANNESMAN	123.0	125.7
MERCEDES	515.0	527.0
METALLGES	260.0	269.0
NIXDORF PF	534.5	541.0
NORSK HYD	51.50	54.40
PHILIP KOM	610.0	612.0
PORSCHER	525.0	535.0
PREUSSAG	163.0	166.0
PWA	200.5	204.0
RHEIN	206.0	207.2
RHEIN P	196.0	199.5
RHEINMETAL	275.0	290.0
SALAMANDER	263.0	266.0
SCHERING	447.0	458.0
SEL	302.1	310.0
SIEMENS	355.0	369.5
THYSEN	127.9	132.3
VARIA	268.0	273.0
VEBA	252.5	258.8
VEW	169.0	171.0
VOLKSWAGEN	242.5	249.6

HONG KONG

STOCK	LAST	PR-CLSE
C H LUNEL	14.60	14.70
CHIEUNG Y	7.45	7.85
CHINA GAS	16.40	16.70
CHINA L-P	18.80	19.30
CHINA MOTR	18.70	19.00
COSMO PROP	0	4.30
EVERGO IND	36	38
FAR EAST C	76	78
GEN ORIENT	0	44.00
H C OVERL	9.10	9.25
H S INDEX	598.95	684.13
HANG LUNG	5.15	5.45
HANG SENG	27.00	27.40
HAW PAR BR	0	21.00
HK ELEC CO	8.05	8.15
HK KMOLOON	6.90	7.10
HK LAND CO	8.05	8.25
HK SHAN BK	0	7.55
HK SHAN NT	4.27	4.45
HK TELE CO	7.50	7.70
HUTCH WHAM	8.30	8.50
IND EO PAC	10.60	10.70
JARDINE H	12.60	12.70
KOWLOON H	10.10	10.60
NEW WORLD	1.73	1.78
PAUL Y CON	0	5.90
REALTY DEV	0	2.00
S N K CO	1.89	2.00
S N K PROP	10.40	10.90
S N K PROP	1.47	1.56
STELUX MFG	2.60	2.75
SWIRE PAC	17.30	18.10
T V B CO	14.70	15.20
TAT CHEUNG	3.55	3.75
UNITED BANK	1.54	1.60
WOCK HAD	0	7.25
WOCK MARI	0	1.15
WORLD INTL	3.35	3.50

AMMAN

As of 13.48	PNVG	CLSG
ALA-ADIN COMPANY	1.35	1.35
ARAB ALUMINUM INO.	1.73	1.76
ARAB BANK	114.0	114.0
ARAB CHEMICAL DTR	3.90	3.95
ARAB FINANCE CORP.	1.32	1.26
ARAB INSURANCE	1.00	0.99
ARAB INTL/VT/TRADE	0.98	0.98
ARAB INTL-UNION IHS	0.92	0.94
ARAB INTER. HOTELS	0.53	0.58
ARAB JOR/INVEST/BX	2.10	2.10
ARAB PAPER COM/IND	0.36	0.33
ARAB PHARMA/MANF.	1.90	1.95
ARAB PHARMA/CNEN	0.76	0.75
ARAB POTASH CO.	---	---
ARABIAN SEAS INS.	1.65	1.65
BANK OF JORDAN	15.25	15.20
BELGIUM INSURANCE	1.00	0.95
CAIRO AMMAN BANK	30.00	30.00
DAR AL SHAAB PRESS	0.38	0.37
DAR ALDAWA DV/INV.	1.42	1.42
DARCO/INVEST/INDUS.	0.42	0.43
FINANCE/CREDIT/COR	0.55	0.55
GARAGE OWNERS OFF	4.10	3.95
GENERAL INSURANCE	2.39	2.35
GENERAL INVESTMENT	1.32	1.30
GENERAL MINING	1.40	1.35
HIMMEL MINERALS	0.79	0.79
HOLY LAND INS.	1.20	1.32
IND./MATCH CHEM	0.68	0.67
INDUSTRIAL DEVPT BNX	1.36	1.36
INDUSTRIAL/COMM/AGR.	1.33	1.33
INDUSTRIAL INVEST.	0.75	0.75
INTERCOM/INV	0.20	0.19
JORDAN ELECTRICITY	0.96	0.96
ISLAMIC INV. HOUSE	0.4	0.4
ITERMED/PETRI/CH	1.35	1.35
J. TOUR-SR COMPLEX	0.75	0.75
JERUSALEM INS.	1.28	1.26
JOR TOBACCO/CIGARET	13.60	13.60
JOR CERAMIC FACTOR	1.02	1.01
JOR EAGLE INS.	25.01	25.05
JOR ELECTRIC POWER	1.44	1.44
JOR FINANCE HOUSE	1.16	1.20
JOR GLASS INDUSTRY	0.99	0.97
JOR HOTEL TOURISM	2.50	2.50
JOR INDUSTRY CENH.	1.60	1.63
JOR INS AND FIN.	1.20	1.20
JOR LEASING CORP.	0.80	0.75
JOR LIN BRICK	0.21	0.21
JOR MANAG/CONSULT	0.50	0.50
JOR NATIONAL BANK	2.46	2.46
JOR PAPER CARBORG	3.00	3.05
JOR PHOSPHATE MINS	2.20	2.20
JOR PIPES MANUFACT	1.14	1.14
JOR PRESS/PUBLISH.	2.00	2.05
JOR PRINTING/PACK.	3.96	4.00
JOR ROCK WOOL IND.	0.57	0.57
JOR SECURIT. CORP	0.75	0.79
JOR SELPHO CHEM.	2.69	2.72
JOR WOOD INDUSTRY	1.21	1.25
JOR WORSTED MLL	4.25	4.30
JOR KUWAIT AGR	1.00	1.00
JOR KUWAIT REF	7.04	7.01
JOR FRENCH INS.	5.20	5.30
JOR INV. FID. CORP	1.87	1.88
JORDAN GULF REAL	0.31	0.31
JORDAN DAIRY	1.00	1.00
JORDAN GULF BANK	1.16	1.16
JORDAN GULF INS.	0.94	0.95
JORDAN INSURANCE	13.85	13.90
JORDAN ISLAMIC BAK	1.65	1.65
JORDAN KUWAIT BAK	1.53	1.53
JORDAN TANNING	1.95	1.95
LIVESTOCK/POULTRY	0.76	0.75
MACH/EQUI/MENT/MAIN	0.77	0.76
MAS INDUSTRIES	0.69	0.73
MIDDEL EAST HOTEL	0.60	0.60
MIDDEL EAST INS	60.00	60.00
MINERALS RESEARCH	0.60	0.60
NAT. FIN. INVEST CO	1.82	1.82
NAT/CABEL/WIRE/NF	0.99	0.99
NATIONAL AHLIA INS.	1.28	1.29
NATIONAL INDUSTRY	0.50	0.50
NATIONAL PORTFOLIO	0.73	0.73
NATIONAL STEEL	2.68	2.79
ORIENT ORY BATTERY	0.25	0.28
PETRA BANK	2.00	1.95
PETRA JOR. INS.	0.50	0.50
PHILADELPHIA INS.	0.86	0.84
RAFA INDUSTRIAL	0.80	0.80
REAL ESTATE INV.	0.39	0.40
SHIPPING LINES	0.81	0.81
SPINNING WEAVING	0.88	0.88
THE HOUSING BANK	1.67	1.67
UNITED INSURANCE	2.50	2.50
UNIVERSAL CHEM. IND	1.68	1.66
UNIVERSAL INS.	1.19	1.23
WOOLEN INDUSTRIES	0.85	0.85
YARMOUK INSURANCE	1.07	1.06

PHILIPPINES MAKATI

COMMERCIAL/INDUSTRIAL SECTOR	8C-A	72.00	74.00
STOCK BUY	SELL	OPEN	LC-B
AC-A	9.20	9.30	9.20
ANS	4.35	4.40	4.45
FER-A	2.32	2.44	2.44
GLO	34.00	35.00	34.50
PLDT	155.00	156.00	157.00
SPS-A	1.52	1.60	1.60
SHC-B	134.00	137.00	137.00
WINING SECTOR	158.00	159.00	158.00
APK-A	0.26	0.27	0.26
APK-B	0.26	0.28	0.26
AT-A	21.75	22.00	21.75
AT-B	21.75	22.00	21.75
OFFICIAL INFORMATION	SHARES	VALUE	AVERAGES
SECTOR	327,880	9,364,775	797.96
MINING	30,589,900	3,307,850	4,903.27
OIL	33,700,000	748,540	5,386
TOTAL	64,617,780	13,421,165	761.49

PHILIPPINES MANILA

COMMERCIAL/INDUSTRIAL SECTOR	8C-A	72.00	75.00
STOCK BUY	SELL	OPEN	LC-B
SHC-A	137.00	138.00	137.00
SHC-B	158.00	159.00	158.00
SP-TIRE	29.00	29.50	29.00
PLDT	156.00	157.00	156.00
ANSCOR	4.35	4.40	4.45
AC-A	9.10	9.20	9.20
GLO	34.00	34.50	34.50
FER-A	2.40	2.46	2.46
FER-B	2.44	2.46	2.50
WINING SECTOR	2.46	2.50	2.50
STOCK BUY	SELL	OPEN	LC-B
APK-A	0.26	0.27	0.26
APK-B	0.26	0.27	0.26
AT-A	21.75	22.00	21.75
AT-B	21.75	22.00	21.75
OFFICIAL INFORMATION	SHARES	VALUES	AVERAGES
SECTOR	710,980	10,859,320	793.30
C/I	63,988,300	4,106,860	4,156.39
MINING	102,100,000	2,304,050	5.651
OILS	166,799,280	17,270,230	736.14

SINGAPORE

NAME	LAST	PR CL	GUINNESS	263	265	LION CORP	159	164
AJINOMOTO	285	285	H L IND.	118	125	M'SNITA	510	510
ALEXANDRA	150	150	H TAI PAN	49.5	49.5	N'WATA	62	62
ANAL IND	112	112	HARINAW	96.5	98	HAGNUM	188	199
AMB NLDGS	160	160	NAW PAR	276	290	MALEX IND	380	380
ANCOL	127	132	HEXZA	109	114	MARCOPOLO	81.5	86.5

BUSINESS

Wall Street stocks drop

US bond prices tumble, dollar under pressure

NEW YORK, April 15, (Reuters): Wall Street stock prices fell again today, extending yesterday's slump, as the government reported a sharp rise in wholesale prices, adding inflation worries to concern over the stubbornly high trade deficit.

The Dow Jones industrial index slid below 2,000, falling as much as 29 points to 1,976 in mid-morning but later recovering some ground through bargain-hunting. At noon the blue-chip average stood at 1,995.69, down 9.95 points.

On the New York Stock Exchange, stocks that lost value outnumbered advancing issues by a margin of 11-to-2.

Bond prices and the dollar also dropped sharply for a second day despite coordinated intervention by central banks.

The US Commerce Department said today that wholesale prices rose 0.6 per cent in March after a 0.2 per cent decline in February. The rise was double what economists had forecast and served to fuel already pervasive inflation worries.

"This is bearing out the expectation that we will see more price increases this year because of the effects of the dollar," said Kathryn Kobe, an economist for a Washington forecasting firm.

The markets were already reeling from a Commerce Department report yesterday that showed the US trade deficit jumped to \$13.8 billion in February, confounding experts who had predicted a decline from January's \$12.4-billion shortfall.

Yesterday, the Dow went down 101.64 points, its fifth-biggest one-day decline.

The White House called the slide an overreaction. "We think the market overreacted to a one-time (trade) report and we hope the market will stabilise," White House spokesman Marlin Fitzwater said.

Share prices were lower around the globe today after yesterday's plunge on Wall Street. Tokyo, Hong Kong, Sydney, Wellington and other Asian markets ended sharply down, but most were above their lows for the day.

Asian stock markets tumbled today following yesterday's share price plunge on Wall Street but by the close of trade, a mood of hesitant calm prevailed.

Depressed Wall Street plummeted 101 points overnight, its fifth biggest single-day loss, after being spooked by news yesterday of an unexpectedly large US trade deficit in February, brokers said.

Tokyo, Hong Kong, Sydney, Wellington and other regional stock markets ended sharply depressed, but most were above their lows for the day. Tokyo's Nikkei index lost 217.78 points, or eight-tenths of one per cent, to close at 26,893.57, over 100 points up on its morning low.

The US dollar climbed a little against major currencies, closing at 124.13 yen and 1.6655 West German marks in Tokyo against 123.55 yen and 1.6620 marks in New York. The US currency was

at 126.15 yen at the close of Tokyo trade yesterday.

But Tokyo stockbrokers did not find the figures as worrying as New York. Powerful institutional investors went bargain-hunting in afternoon trade.

Decline "Most domestic institutions see any decline as a buying opportunity," said Nick Akers of Goldman Sachs Securities in Tokyo.

Sydney stock prices regained some ground in late trade, but were still well down on the day. The main All Ordinaries index was down 30.7 points at 1,436.8, after the day's low of 1,423.5.

"All eyes will be on New York to see how it reacts — it is going to be a nervous weekend," said one Sydney broker.

Hong Kong's Hang Seng index lost about 93 points to 2,591 according to preliminary figures.

The US dollar was buoyed in Tokyo when the Bank of Japan stepped in to sell yen for dollars to stop the US currency from falling too fast, currency dealers said.

The dollar was also supported by comments by Japanese Finance Minister Kiichi Miyazawa, who said in Washington that Germany, the United States and Japan would step up their support for the dollar if necessary.

Miyazawa did not say at what levels such support would be provided.

New Zealand's key Barclays share index eased 49.86 points to 1,982.48 but bounced back from

morning troughs in the afternoon.

"The Australian share market showed signs of resilience and that was reflected in afternoon trading here," said a Wellington broker.

Taiwanese stock prices were cushioned by a last-minute surge of buying after a day of selling. Its index fell 87.79 points, or 2.3 per cent, to close at 3,689.17.

Worst Hong Kong's market fared worst in Asia, dropping a total 3.4 per cent.

"The (Hong Kong) market is vulnerable to future developments on Wall Street," a US brokerage trader said.

Gold bullion prices were mostly stable in late afternoon Asian trade at \$453.70 an ounce against 453.75 at yesterday's New York close.

US bond prices tumbled yesterday in response to the trade figures. The benchmark 30-year US Treasury bond opened today at 98-29/32, down from 100-2/32 at yesterday's close. The yield increased to 8.93 per cent from 8.87 yesterday.

Today the dollar opened lower in New York against the mark but was up slightly against the yen.

The dollar remained lower despite intervention by some Group of Seven (G-7) central banks, dealers said. They said news of the larger-than-expected rise in wholesale prices raised the market's inflation fears, placing added selling pressure on the dollar.

"The psychology is very pes-

simistic," said private economist William Sullivan.

The dollar opened at 1.6605 marks, down from 1.6620 at yesterday's close. It opened at 123.75 yen, compared to yesterday's close of 123.55.

Several dealers said they believed the Bank of Japan intervened to support the dollar today, while the Federal Reserve, the US central bank, may have bought dollars for yen at around 123.75.

West Germany's Bundesbank confirmed that it had intervened, though it would give no details. Frankfurt dealers said the Bundesbank bought dollars for both marks and yen to stem the dollar's decline.

London dealers said the Bank of England may have joined the other central banks to support the dollar.

Bonds "The market is scared about how the stock market and bonds will react to the (wholesale price) number," said a corporate foreign exchange manager for a London bank located in New York.

Higher inflation may lead to firmer interest rates, which would hurt corporate profits and depress bond prices, dealers said.

Gold, the favoured investor haven whenever there is a whiff of inflation in the air, jumped sharply, by some \$13 in Europe, on the news of the US wholesale price rise. London bullion dealers said it was fixed in the afternoon in London at \$456.30 an ounce.



Group members of Japanese banks gaze at actions of money brokers during a study inspection tour of the Tokyo money broker company yesterday. The Bank of Japan is believed to have bought a moderate amount of dollars around 123.90 yen dealers said. (Reuters wirephoto)

Iran set to impose tighter economic controls

TEHRAN, April 15, (Reuters): Iran is ready to impose tighter economic controls after the expected triumph of a radical Islamic faction in parliamentary elections.

Ali Majidi, First Deputy Minister of Economy and Finance, said in an interview the measures would include tax increases, more controls on the private sector, and a bigger government role in economy.

The measures would be put into law after results of all 270 seats of the Majlis (parliament) were declared, he added.

Reforms

He supports attempts by radicals, who favour the public sector, to bring about economic reforms. The radicals broke from the conservative wing of the country's Muslim clerical group in the run-up to last Friday's poll.

Majidi said the economy, hounded by the war with Iraq, had picked up after a year of stagnation and would show modest growth in the year which ended on March 20. This was due to a 14 per cent rise in agricultural production and an increase in oil revenues.

Estimated oil revenue in 1987-88 was \$8.6 billion, up from \$6.6 billion the previous year, according to figures given in the parliamentary budget debate. Projected revenue in 1988-89 is \$9 billion.

Dominance Majidi said election results so far confirmed the dominance of the radicals in the next Majlis, assuring the passage of economic reform bills held up by the Guardian Council.

The council, composed of 12 Muslim theologians and lawyers, ensures that parliamentary decisions are not at odds with Islamic principles or Iran's 1979 constitution.

The conservative wing, in the majority in the council but in the minority in the outgoing parliament, wants looser economic controls and some privatisation. It opposes tax rises.

Verity opposes Soviet GATT membership

MOSCOW, April 15, (AP): US Commerce Secretary C. William Verity yesterday voiced opposition to suggestions that the Soviet Union should be allowed to join an international trade organisation.

But Verity said the US government's opposition to Soviet participation in the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) could change as the Soviet Union moves toward a market-oriented economy. Some US businessmen supported admitting the Soviets to the group.

Verity spoke at a news conference after signing a protocol endorsing joint Soviet-American business ventures.

In September 1986, the United

States led the opposition to a Soviet effort to join GATT, a 95-nation group that sets international trading rules.

Progress "It would be inappropriate, perhaps impossible, to make any progress if the Soviet Union was a member of GATT," Verity said. But he added that "in time, as the Soviet Union moves toward a market economy, that would be different."

Verity said Soviet leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev's "perestroika," or restructuring programme, is designed "to move the Soviet economy toward a market economy, and that is important to the Soviet side and to all other nations of the world who would like to see

movement in that direction."

Verity's trip to Moscow comes in advance of President Ronald Reagan's five-day visit to the Soviet capital scheduled to begin on May 29. Trade frequently comes up during summit talks with Gorbachev, who wants access to US technology and services to help improve his country's ailing economy.

Talks

Verity and Alexander I. Kachanov, Soviet first deputy minister of foreign economic relations, signed a protocol adding joint ventures to the types of cooperation encouraged by a 1974 trade agreement.

Verity's three days of talks with Kachanov coincided with a Moscow meeting of the US-

USSR trade and economic council, which attracted more than 400 US businessmen. Seven major US companies said Wednesday they formed a consortium to work out business deals with the Soviets.

Another company, Honeywell Inc., on Monday announced a joint venture to supply automatic production controls for Soviet fertiliser factories.

Verity said he stressed to Soviet officials that improvements in trade depended on Soviet easing of emigration restrictions.

He said the Soviets had agreed to "marketing glasnost," using the Russian word for openness that characterises Gorbachev's drive for freer expression.

Belgium's Generale says business is as usual as Benedetti fails

BRUSSELS, April 15, (Reuters): Belgium's biggest company says it is resuming business as usual after dealing a major blow to Italian tycoon Carlo De Benedetti, whose hostilities bid for control paralysed the conglomerate for more than three months.

Societe Generale De Belgique's new team of directors met into the early hours today after an extraordinary shareholders meeting denied De Benedetti and his two Belgian allies seats on the board.

All 12 candidates put forward by Societe Generale's board — 11 from the syndicate led by France's Suez Financial Group and Belgian insurer Groupe AG — were elected to an expanded board of the conglomerate which controls over 1,300 firms worldwide.

Activities

"We resume our activities. The situation is now clear," Societe Generale director Etienne Devignon told journalists at the end of a chaotic shareholders' meeting that lasted more than 12 hours.

Last-minute talks between the mainly Franco-Belgian group of companies and the Olivetti chief founder on the Italian's insistence that he be given the presidency of a newly created executive committee to chart

company strategy.

The public meeting marked a climax in the fight for the 166-year-old conglomerate. It had become Europe's biggest cross-border takeover battle and cost the main players billions of dollars.

Action

Speaking to journalists after the board vote, De Benedetti voiced reservations about its legal validity. He vowed to continue court action seeking to reverse the issue of 12 million new shares by Societe Generale after he launched his bid in January.

"We are here to stay," the ebullient Italian said. "My objective remains to be chairman of the executive committee."

The Franco-Belgian alliance led by French financial group Compagnie Financiere De Suez, used just two million of the new shares to win the board battle.

It would have won even without using them as De Benedetti's camp fell short of the 48.9 per cent stake of the old capital he had claimed to control.

Action

Suez chairman Renaud De La Geniere told the meeting that he would welcome De Benedetti and his allies on the board, but only if he dropped his "hegemonic demands."

The other 10 million new

shares held by the majority group are subject of a separate court action brought by De Benedetti ally and Gevaert chairman Andre Leysen. He insists that he retained an option on them granted before he joined forces with the Italian midway through the battle.

De Benedetti had envisaged his defeat at the meeting held in a giant tent. But he insisted that in the long run he would still win control of Societe Generale.

"No one can think that the board that will be elected will be representative and definitive," he said before the vote.

"Sooner or later — in one week, or in a month, or in six months, or in a year, my associate and I will play the major role which we deserve."

The Societe Generale board now has 23 members. Apart from the 11 existing ones, nine of the newly elected candidates come from the French contingent in the majority group. Two others are Belgian.

The 12th and most notable entry was Philippe Bodson, president of the Belgian Employers Federation and managing director of glassmaker Glaverbel. The only non-shareholder among those standing, some analysts have tipped him as the future top man in the company's reorganised management structure.

WORLD STOCK ROUNDUP

SYDNEY, April 15, (Reuters): The national share market regained some ground in late trading but closed sharply lower after strong selling pressure earlier. The All Ordinaries was down 30.7 at 1,436.8.

TOKYO: Share prices closed down following a 101-point overnight tumble on Wall Street, triggered by a larger-than-expected \$13.8 billion US trade deficit. The Nikkei index lost 217.78 to 26,893.57.

HONG KONG: Stocks closed sharply lower following the US trade data. The Hang Seng index was down 85.18 at 2,598.95.

SINGAPORE: The market closed sharply lower across the board on selling pressure and profit-taking in moderate trading. The Straits Times industrial index dropped 23.67 to 933.44.

BOMBAY: Share prices closed mixed in limited bouts of buying and selling, with cautious investors hesitant to extend commitments. Tata Steel fell 8.75 rupees to 671.25 but Associated Cement rose 2.0 to 143.

ZURICH: Prices closed easier but above earlier lows in moderate trading. The All-Share Swiss index was down 9.5 at 830.8.

PARIS: Prices ended lower but recovered from most of their early slide after bargain-hunters moved in.

Bermudans, Swiss most prosperous people: study

WASHINGTON, April 15, (AP): The 56,000 residents of Bermuda were the world's most prosperous in 1986, with an average income of \$20,420 a year, the World Bank reports.

The Swiss ranked next highest with average incomes of \$17,840 and US citizens were third with \$17,500, the report said.

Income

The figures do not reflect the drop the US dollar has taken against the Swiss franc and other currencies since 1986, the latest year for which the bank has comparative figures.

The annual report noted that the income figures do not necessarily correlate directly with living standards, because prices and styles of life differ from country to country.

The report was issued to coincide with the semi-annual meetings of the World Bank and its sister organisation, the International Monetary Fund, which end today.

Following the top three, the income rankings dropped considerably.

The average figure for Japan was \$12,850, West Germany \$12,080, France \$10,740 and Britain \$8,920.

Citizens of Brunei, whose average income surpassed those of the United States in 1985, dropped to \$15,400 because of the dip in the price of oil, the major export of the small sultanate on Borneo.

The Bank omitted figures for many countries, including war-torn Afghanistan and Angola.

Plagued

The lowest figure listed was \$120 a year per citizen in Ethiopia, which has been plagued by drought and ravaged by armed revolts.

The report said that in Burkina Faso, in Western Africa, the average annual income is \$150. No estimate was made for the Soviet Union, which does not belong to the Bank. The average for China was placed at \$300, down from 320 in 1985 despite official Chinese claims of rapidly increasing prosperity.

The report noted that average incomes have been decreasing in many Third World countries.

Unicef makes \$39m appeal for Mozambican children

GENEVA, April 15, (Reuters): Unicef today appealed for \$39.4 million to provide food, water and medical supplies to women and children in Mozambique, where the child mortality rate is the highest in the world.

A Unicef (United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund) spokeswoman told reporters an estimated one-child in three dies by the age of five and that more than half the country's children suffer from malnutrition.

Care

Special care will be given to the estimated 200,000 children orphaned or abandoned in Mozambique, where rebels have been fighting the Marxist government since the former Portuguese colony won independence 13 years ago.

United Nations Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar last month launched an international appeal for \$380.4 million in urgent aid for Mozambique for 1988-89.

Chinese computer entrepreneur has high hopes

BEIJING, April 15, (Reuters): In China, where the public has only just become familiar with such items as tape recorders, and few families have a telephone, the odds seem stacked against a tiny Beijing computer firm that wants to compete with IBM.

But Hope Computers, one of many nascent Chinese electronics manufacturers in what local newspapers have dubbed China's "Silicon valley," believes one day it will be able to export personal computers competitive with those of such world leaders as IBM and Apple.

Products

"We want to be the Chinese Apple Corporation. Apple started in a garage. We also started in a very dirty, small building three years ago," said Hope general manager Zhou Mingtao.

He spoke in a dimly lit room cluttered with his company's three main products — a terminal that displays Chinese

characters, software that can help design items such as shoes and furniture and a voice simulator that speaks in Chinese.

Outside, a horse-drawn cart carrying vegetables trundles down Zhongguancun street, the centre of China's Silicon valley.

A few years ago the area was dotted with duck farms and a few humble workshops. But now it has the air of a boom town.

Treatment

Hastily built electronics factories and shops line the highway, advertising their presence with giant signs painted luminous orange or green.

Students from nearby campuses of China's elite Beijing and Qinghua universities spend their free time browsing in the shops, jotting down notes, or laboriously learning to type on Chinese character processors.

Communist Party chief Zhao Ziyang visited the street earlier this year and the official press has

heralded the electronics industry as a major future earner of foreign exchange.

"The government gives us preferential treatment. They want this industry to develop very quickly," said Zhou.

"We can get foreign currency whenever we ask for it and we are taxed at only 30 per cent of income, against 55 per cent for other businesses," he said.

Zhou said many graduates from top universities were keen to join computer firms and the state, which still largely controls where graduates work, was willing to let them.

Low

Hope made two million yuan (\$520,000) profit last year from total sales of 16 million yuan (\$4.2 million), up from almost nothing in 1986, said Zhou. In 1988, sales are predicted to reach 50 million yuan (\$13 million).

Zhou concedes the quality of essential computer components

made in China is low, adding that Hope imports keyboards, terminal cases and printers, all but its most basic parts.

Semiconductors, display units, digitisers, graphics and other high-technology parts are bought from South Korea, Taiwan, Japan and Hong Kong, he said.

Problems

China has about 100 factories making semiconductors, vital computer components, but productivity is low, said Li Shiping, senior engineer at the Beijing Semiconductor Research Centre.

China buys expensive machinery abroad to make microchips but cannot yet produce sophisticated machinery of its own, said Li.

A Hong Kong electronics expert who has toured China's semiconductor factories said even where Chinese had high-

tech equipment, they still wasted many semiconductors through clumsy processing.

"You need a totally air-tight room with no dust to get high productivity in making semiconductors," he said. "But in most of the factories in China, dust gets in and many semiconductors are wrecked."

Despite the problems, Zhou clings to his ideal of one day competing with the world leaders.

"In three years time we want to have developed 10 new products of export quality," said Zhou. "Then in maybe five years we will sell not only to some Asian countries but also in the United States."

The company employs 60 people, about half of whom are engaged in researching new products. Two members of Zhou's research team studied abroad and two more are in the United States studying marketing possibilities.



Tunisia's Ambassador to Kuwait, Habib Al Kaabashi, (left) paid a courtesy visit to the acting secretary-general, Abdullatif Alwatari. They discussed the continuation of cooperation between Opec and Tunisia through Tunisia's participation in Opec activities.

CINE ROUND-UP FROM BOMBAY

by Firoze Rangoonwalla

Special to the Arab Times

Oldest film industry in Asia

Platinum jubilee for Indian cinema

THE cinema in India will soon be touching new records of longevity and standing power. A year from now it will be nine decades since Indian short films were made and screened. And the present period of 1987-88 marks the end of 75 years since the first feature films with a dramatic narrative, were produced.

The film industry is proudly calling it the Platinum Jubilee year and celebrations have been planned, with Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi expected to grace the take-off function in May. Of course there are also rumblings that the present set of producers are opportunists, who want to use the historic occasion for their own glory and publicity. Producer G.P. Sippy, distributor Santosh Singh Jain and others are leading the celebrations under the umbrella of the Film Federation of India, which has a membership of all the three sectors.

It is said that these present leaders have no correct knowledge of film history, nor any real concern for pioneers and veterans, who laid the foundation of exhibiting and producing films in the last four years of the 19th century and the first fifteen years of the present one. Today's producers hardly know the names or faces of feature film pioneers like Torney and Phalke. No trusts, memorials or scholarships have been instituted in their names. Nobody has bothered to find

out how the descendants of the pioneers live or if they need any help or work from the industry.

Only an area at Dadar in Bombay, has been named Dadasaheb Phalke Road and postage stamps were issued at the time of his birth centenary. Thereafter Phalke has only been a photo on the wall. His children who acted in films have never been called to be honoured or aided by the industry. Some time it was reported in the Marathi papers that Phalke's youngest son made his living by bawking sweets on the roads. The other veterans in other centres are simply forgotten.

Alive

History books have kept alive their glorious work and tradition. And it has been a fascinating story, of setting up a totally new kind of industry against all odds, without any government help and relying only on public support. Those adventurous men with their quaint machines instituted cinema in a country like India almost at the same time as the advanced Western countries. All the more remarkable, as India was a colony under British rule.

In the U.S.A. Edison's kitescope enabled people to see moving pictures like a peep-show, one at a time. In April 1896, a regular public screening through a projector was held. In Paris, the Lumiere Brothers

**THE MARVEL OF THE CENTURY.
THE WONDER OF THE WORLD.
LIVING PHOTOGRAPHIC PICTURES
IN
LIFE-SIZED REPRODUCTIONS
BY
MESSRS. LUMIERE BROTHERS.
CINEMATOGAPHE.**

A FEW EXHIBITIONS WILL BE GIVEN

AT

WATSON'S HOTEL

TO-NIGHT (7th instant).

PROGRAMME will be as under:

1. Entry of Cinematographe.
2. Arrival of a Train.
3. The Sea Bath.
4. A Demolition.
5. Leaving the Factory.
6. Ladies and Soldiers on Wheels.

The Entertainment will take place at 6, 7, 9, and 10 p.m.

ADMISSION ONE RUPEE.

Birth of motion pictures in India as announced in the Times of India, July 17, 1896.

cinematograph had arrived a year earlier. It was this same system with six short films that arrived in India on 7 July, 1896. The show was held at Watson's Hotel in Bombay and soon shifted to the Novelty theatre, with a variety of items. They were called "the marvel of the century, the wonder of the world, life-sized reproductions" etc.

Music was provided for the silent images by musicians sitting in the theatre. The package proved a bit hit. The following year was crowded with various foreign units displaying their magical films through Indian exhibitors, in stage theatres, public halls, hotels and even tents.

Soon, Indians began to import cameras and film rolls and the first topical films began to be produced in India. The first pioneer was H.S. Bhatnagar, who shot scenes of two wrestlers and a juggler with his monkey in 1899. He was followed by F.B. Thapa, a Bengali, who made short films. The theatres had to lure their patrons with many attractions, like showing colour films and synchronised sound, or providing vehicular services and lucky prizes. Press reviews also started with the Times of India starting a column of comments.

By 1905, Bengal's pioneer J.F. Madan put the exhibition trade on a film basis with a permanent cinema. His Elphinstone Bioscope Company (later Madan Theatres) expanded

into a huge net-work with theatres in India, Burma and Ceylon, distribution agencies for imported films and a production wing with a big output. The era of short and long documentaries on topical events, cultural functions, political upheavals and monuments etc. continued for a dozen years of the new century.

And then the "feature" film, not very long, but with a story structure specially enacted by actors for the camera arrived at last in India. R.G. Torney and N.C. Chitre, with their dramatic club bought of producing a film on the Hindu saint, Pundalik. The cameraman was hired from the famous British company Bourne and Shepherd dealing in photographic goods in India. Actors came from the amateur group under the direction of Torney.

Pundalik was successfully released on 18th May 1912 at Bombay's Coronation Cinema and it became India's first feature film. This was exactly one year before D.G. Phalke's more famous Raja Harishchandra which arrived at the same theatre on 3 May 1913. Both were about forty minutes long. Pundalik was clubbed together with an imported film, Harishchandra was supported by several items on screen and stage. So actually, the Platinum Jubilee should have been



D.G. Phalke made Raja Harishchandra in 1913 with a male actor playing the female lead.

celebrated in May 1987.

The position of Pundalik cannot be disputed. It ran for two weeks, which was rare for those times. The announcements described it as "a fascinating religious subject ... almost half the Bombay population has seen it last week and we want the other half to do so now." The film was reviewed by the Times of India which said: "Pundalik has the power to arrest attention ... as a religious drama it has few equals." Unfortunately Torney could not keep up his film

activities, whereas Phalke faced all sort of problems to lay the foundation of commercially acceptable film production.

His efforts continued for four years when he made successful films on Lord Krishna with his daughter Mandakini in the role. Then came J.F. Madan's Satyawadi Raja Harishchandra, Bengal's first feature in 1917. And after that, the first feature Keechaka Vadham was made in Madras by Nataraj Mudaliar in 1919. From then onwards the Indian cinema started on its long jour-

ney and the talkie film arrived with Alam Ara on 14 March, 1931.

We cannot say whether today's producers deserve to celebrate the jubilee, as they have not done anything for the veterans, except reap the fruits of their labour. They have also turned from good sensible films of the past to violent, sexy, senseless films, relying on a bunch of stars and composers. The least that the industry could have done was to make a faithful documentary on all the great films of 75 years.



The Lumiere brothers, Auguste and Louis. Their cinematograph brought the first movies to India, ninety years ago.

Mehmood's swan song



Mehmood gets a new hair-do with four barbers in attendance.



Mehmood shows off his new hair-do.

COMEDIAN Mehmood has recently shot into the limelight with some new gags and stunts. He seems to have become philosophical with advancing age and bad circumstances arising from his losses in horse-racing. He gives the impression of presenting his swan song, the last few efforts after which he may remain only in memory of cinegoers.

At a recent function to give film awards to various people, Mehmood was asked to compare and give some comments. After paying his homage to some late talents, he made the audience stand up to observe one "minute's silence" for an artist who has served the industry for 40 years. The audience obediently did that. Then Mehmood explained that it was in his own benefit that he had drawn this honour. He said he may not live long after his two heart attacks and he wanted to see with his own eyes how people would pay him a tribute. People laughed heartily at Mehmood's sad joke.

Another big event was Mehmood's launching of a video serial, which will be different from T.V. serials or video films. This will be a series of cassettes issued one per month. It will naturally be a full-length comedy, with Mehmood monitoring several skits, farces and funny stories, apart from jokes. At the party to launch this new type of video, Mehmood did another stunt — picturing a scene of a fashionable barber shaving Mehmood's head.

In an interview, Mehmood said that this would be his last gift to the film-loving public, as he is not in a position now to make feature films. Nor does he find producers booking him for roles. Prakash Mehra had booked him for a father's role in 1987 but there was no sign of it starting till 1988. Strangely, Mehra came to the same function with his girl friend Padmini Kapila.

Mehmood ended his sad-sweet talk by saying: "I am tired of promises given by producers. Why should I go to them for roles? I want to make the public laugh heartily before I die. So I have started this video serial. I have the support of my co-stars. Dilip and Amulabh have both agreed to appear in guest roles. And there will be many more."

So let us wait for Mehmood's last efforts which may perhaps bring him more roles for him to last longer.

Indian actor to play Jesus

By Colin Wright

AN Indian actor, Victor Banerjee, is to become the first Hindu to play the part of Christ in the York Mystery Plays.

The approach came from the director, Steven Pimlott, who has made another break with tradition this year by casting a boy of 12, John Lacey Colson, to play the part of God.

Banerjee, 42, best known to British audiences for his portrayal of Dr Aziz in the film "A Passage to India," believes his background will allow him to

bring a new dimension to the part.

"Call it Indian mysticism or what you will, being Oriental gives you a certain sensitivity and faith in life which I hope I can communicate to the part," he said.

The actor, currently filming in Australia, follows two well-known British actors, Simon Ward and Christopher Timothy, into the role in the cycle of plays which are performed every four years in the open air of York's museum gardens with the ruins of St Mary's Abbey as a backdrop.

Only the part of Christ is played by a professional actor and some 300 local amateurs will fill the other roles in the 1988 cycle of plays, performed as part of the York Arts Festival in June and July.

Banerjee, a Hindu who was educated by Irish missionaries, believes fate played a large part in the offer of the role.

"My New Year's resolution was to discover more about the life of Christ and I had an instinctive feeling that I would be doing that year."

"At the time, I had never heard of the York Mystery



Victor Banerjee. Plays. So when I was approached to take the part, I could hardly believe it.

FAMILY DOCTOR

By DR ALLAN BRUCKHEIM

SNORING, OBESITY MAY CONTRIBUTE TO SLEEP APNEA

QUESTION: What is sleep apnea, what causes it, and how do you treat it?
ANSWER: Sleep apnea, a condition that affects up to 4 per cent of the adult population, is a sleep disorder in which the sufferer actually stops breathing for several seconds during sleep, during which the heart slows down. This may be followed by a jerky body movement, respiration resumes and the heart speeds up considerably.

Subjective symptoms notwithstanding, these patients experience no difficulty sleeping through the night, though they usually complain of fatigue and headache upon awakening. Objectively, their sleep partners testify that the symptoms of these disorders are made life-threatening than the patient suspects.

For instance, while sleeping, apnea sufferers often stop breathing for as long as 10 seconds, and these episodes may repeat as frequently as four to 30 times an hour. They may seem to fight to regain their breath and then continue with a more quiet sleep. And while personal problems such as divorce are sometimes credited for the onset, it may be the result of the noisy, on-and-off pattern of loud snoring that is so frequently associated with this condition.

Snoring, a sign of temporary and incomplete obstruction of the upper airway, is very common in patients with sleep apnea syndromes. Obesity, tonsillitis and pulmonary problems are only a few of the contributory factors a physician will be on the alert for.

An accurate diagnosis, however, can best be obtained by requesting that the patient spend a night or two in a sleep laboratory, where his or her sleep cycle can be electronically monitored through polysomnography.

Once a clear picture has been established, a conservative course of treatment can begin. In obese subjects, unless life-threatening abnormal heart rhythms are present, weight loss is a good first step. Studies have shown that even small reductions in weight in grossly obese patients greatly improve sleep disorder symptoms. Eliminating depressants such as alcohol, hypnotic drugs and sedatives also improves control.

If these initial efforts prove unsatisfactory, the use of respiratory stimulants (such as medroxyprogesterone) or surgery may be necessary. Such successful surgical procedures range from removal of obstruc-

tive tissue to tracheotomy. However, recent advances in sleep apnea management (nasal CPAP or continuous positive airway pressure) are yielding some dramatic results.

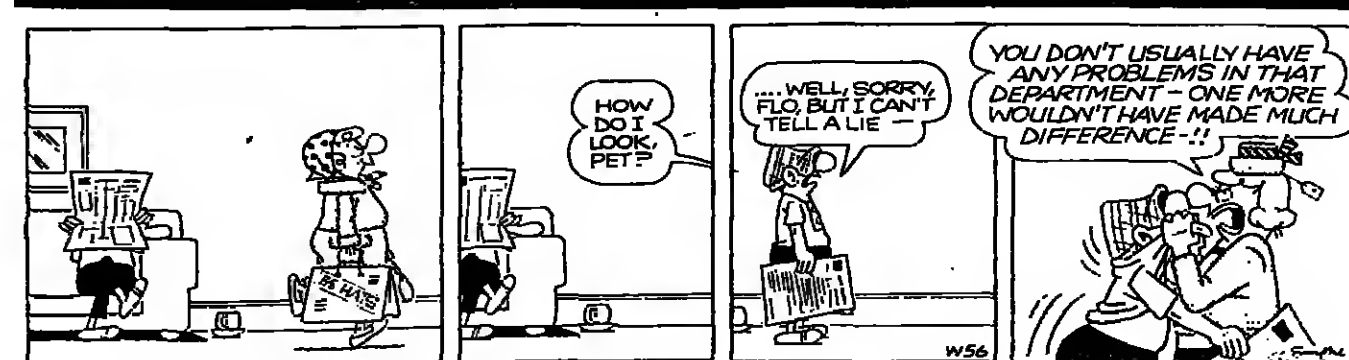
Nasal CPAP involves the use of a tight-fitting nasal mask and small compressor which generates enough constant air pressure to split open the air passages and prevent obstruction. Admittedly, this "deep sea" equipment is not the most alluring nightwear, but for many patients it's a most acceptable alternative to surgery.

Across my desk: If your children persist in being the champs at the latest video game, they may fall prey to the latest medical syndrome, "Joystick digit." That's the term Dr A.L. Osterman and associates at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia have coined to describe two cases of young males who have had their trigger finger locked in place after prolonged use of video game joystick. Actually the condition is a type of tenosynovitis where the tendon coverings on the finger become inflamed, and which fortunately respond to anti-inflammatory medication and a period of "hands off" restrictions.

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ANDY CAPP

By Smith



ARAB TIMES Classifieds

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SUFFRA, one room available with water and electricity for a couple or two working ladies to share with a small family. KD50. Tele. 2520468.

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(AT6-41871-3)

IN Salmiya near junior Indian School, 2 furnished rooms, separate entrance, with water, electricity & telephone, for an Indian family. Bus routes 24, 519. Rent KD110. Tele. Badi, 4819203, 5613159, 8 am - 6.30 am, after 8 pm res.

(AT5-41853-3)

NUGRA, Musa Bin Nasir Street, sharing accommodation in a room with 2 persons, with water and electricity for Indian/Pakistani Muslim bachelors. Bus route 16. Rent KD25. Tele. Fakhr, 4845016, 8 am - 12.30 pm, 4-7 pm.

(AT6-41856-2)

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SALMIYA (near Sheri Lynn), one room for Indians only to share with a family. Bus routes 14, 108, 30, 15, 24, 508. Rent KD 25. Tele. Rudolf, Andrew D'Souza 2427202, 2427203, 8 am - 12 noon.

(AT6-41868-2)

IN Salmiya, Amman Street, one room in a mulhaq, with water and electricity, for a Christian bachelor to share with an Indian bachelor. Bus routes 19, 30, 24, 512. Rent KD35. Tele. Benjamin, 2450005, ext. 2147, 7 am - 1 pm; 4310824, after 5.30 pm.

(AT5-41848-3)

IN Salmiya, behind Mercedes showroom, for Indian bachelors. Bus routes 15, 19, 519, 24, 30. Tele. 5749750, 10 am - 9.30 pm.

(AT5-41851-3)

QURTUBA, 2 rooms with kitchen, toilet and separate entrance for families only. Rent KD 90. Tele. Mrs Barretto, 2514331.

(AT6-41861-3)

ABBASIYA, for a small family to share with an Indian family in a two bedroom flat with two toilets. Opp. Site Abbasiya Supermarket. Tele. Johnson 2405411, 12/2404269 ext. 38, 8 am - 5 pm.

(AT1-41880-3)

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IN Jabriya, new villa, 2 floors, central AC, with tel. line, Ground Floor has a large reception room, kitchen, bathroom. 1st Floor has 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms and a reception. Tele: 5332425, 5313940, after 3 pm.

(AT5-41831-3)

FARWANIYA, behind Holiday Inn (opposite Kids R' Us) in a 2 bedroom flat for one bachelor to share with another bachelor, with 2 Coan bachelors. Tele. 2422086/7 ext. 43.

(AT6-41872-2)

ANDALUS, Area 10, House No. 151, Deluxe villa, two floors, basement, Mulhaq, CAC, car parking in basement. Tele. 5388756, 2418760, 4-9 pm.

(AT1-41869-3)

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(AT6-41863-3)

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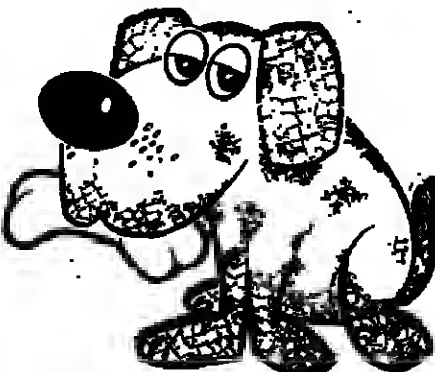
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(AT6-41867-3)

A 3-BEDROOM CAC flat with equipment/furniture for sale, rent KD200, Gulf Road, Salmiya. Equipment/furniture for sale separately also. Tele. Sheikh 5759696, any time.

(AT5-41824-3)

NUGRA, near south complex, flat with 2 bedrooms, sitting room, furniture & electrical appliances for immediate sale. Rent KD130, from 1st May. Tele. Kohli 2662235, 7.30 - 10.30 am and after 2 pm.

(AT1-41889-3)

COMPLETE contents of a 2-bedroom flat. All for urgent sale. Various prices or offer for whole flat. A/C, washing machine, cooking range, furniture, TV, video, etc. car also. Tele. 5652105, any time.

(AT5-41811-3)

DIWANIA sofa set with tables, exercise jogger and rover, freezer, stereo, fridge, and other household items, typewriter and books, sewing machine, TV, pool tape recorder, shelf. Tele. Reza, 2408532/3, 2611730.

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MAZDA 626 GLX, 1986, AC, automatic, blue, 20,000 kms, AM/FM, power antenna, power locks in excellent condition. KD1950 ono, cash. Tele. Zehi Kortunoy, 4836848.

(AT6-41859-2)

NISSAN Skyline, 1973, manual, 4-door, blue, 11-month insurance, new tyres. A good runner. KD150 cash. Tele. Mr Ashlan, 4878197, after 1 pm only.

(AT5-41845-3)

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MAZDA 929, Limited, 1983, AC, manual gears, automatic, beige, fully loaded, in excellent condition. KD1050 ono cash. Tele. Nadeem 5745490.

(AT5-41838-3)

CAMARO Z28, 1980, white, automatic, A/C, radio cassette Sanyo. Very fast, in good condition. KD950 cash. Tele. Mr Ashlan, 4878197, after 1 pm only.

(AT5-41845-3)

DATSUN Nissan, station wagon, 1981, AC, manual, blue, in excellent condition. KD850. Tele. Ahmed, 2445525, after 7 pm.

(AT5-41826-3)

NIVA 1600cc, 1986, AC unit, manual, white, 38000 kms, in good condition. KD550 ono. Tele. Tom, 2410021, 8.30 am - 5 pm.

(AT1-41886-3)

NISSAN Liberta 1985, AC and options. Owner leaving. Company serviced. KD1150. Tele. 4895829 after 5 pm.

(AT6-41873-2)

HONDA Prelude, 1984, automatic, grey metallic, 44 kms, in good condition. KD1,700 cash. Quick sale. Tele. 5323343, after 4 pm.

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NISSAN Lancer, December 1984, AC, manual, white, in excellent condition. KD675 ono cash. Tele. Morgan, 5389173.

(AT5-41839-3)

CAPRICE Classic 1980, AC, automatic, gold colour, in excellent condition. Best offer. Tele. 4887482, 10 am - 8 pm.

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MAID required for a small family, full time or to live in, in Al Salmiya. Must be English-speaking and good with children. Salary KD60. Tele. Rafiq, 5741318, 9 am - 1 pm 4-8 pm.

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FROM Maiden Hawail to Al Arabi Club. Time 12.30 pm, return 3 pm, during Ramadan 3 pm return 6 pm. Tele. Walid, 5626878, 9 am - 12 noon, 4-7 pm.

(AT5-41836-3)

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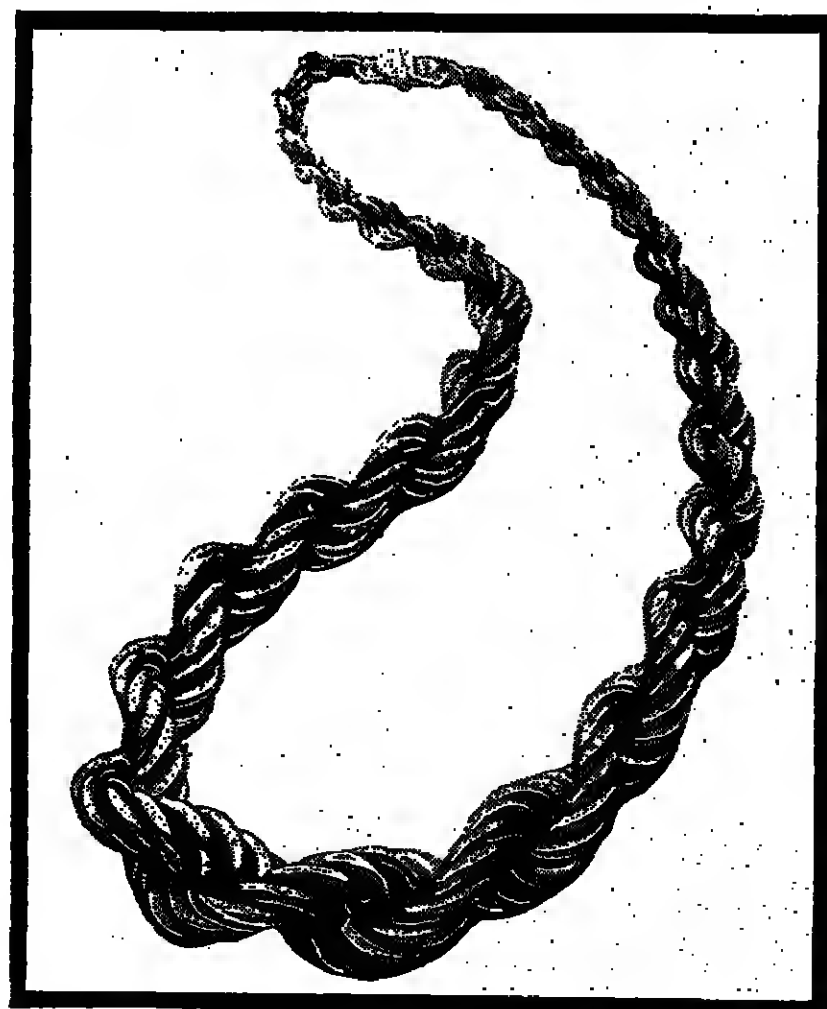
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Central A/C maintenance technicians with 7 years experience. Must have valid transferable residence.

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A/C MECHANICS With min. 5 yrs experience in Kuwait, in maintenance of DX-Units & chilled water system, holding valid residence.

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Abdulhamid Yousuf Al Essa/Trane

SPORTS

SPORTS BRIEFS

Italian soccer

PADUA, Italy, April 15, (Reuters): Italian soccer officials said on Wednesday that an unprecedented strike by First and Second Division players due at the weekend had been called off after an agreement between the players' union and the football federation.

Back injury

MONTE CARLO, April 15, (Reuters): Czechoslovakia's Miloslav Mecir, who has been troubled by a back injury, has been troubled by a back injury, has pulled out of next week's Monte Carlo Open and defending champion Mats Wilander of Sweden may miss the tournament because of illness.

Cash prize

LONDON, April 15, (Reuters): Chris Broad, centre of two stormy incidents during England's troubled cricket tour in the past few months, was awarded a cash prize today for being one of the squad's four leading players.

Cannes Open

CANNES, France, April 15, (Reuters): Australian Wayne Riley, who says he is a reformed character, returned a four under par 68 to lead after yesterday's first round of the Cannes Open golf championship.

Bluebook wins

NEWBURY, England, April 15, (Reuters): Champion trainer Henry Cecil and jockey Steve Cauthen struggled off earlier classic disappointments when the filly Bluebook, a 5-1 chance, won the Fred Darling Stakes today.

Heysel trial

BRUSSELS, Belgium, April 15, (AP): After months of waiting, the trial of 29 people in the deaths of 39 soccer fans at Heysel stadium in 1985 opens Monday, only to be immediately adjourned until September.

Karpov leads

BRUSSELS, April 15, (Reuters): Former world chess champion Anatoly Karpov of the Soviet Union retained the lead at the Brussels World Cup chess tournament yesterday.

Asian Cup

KATHMANDU, April 15, (Reuters): The All-Nepal Football Association (Anfa) will host an Asian Soccer Cup competition starting next month at the national stadium where 70 people died in a stampede earlier this year.

Italian Open

ROME, April 15, (Reuters): Czechoslovak Ivan Lendl, the world number one, and Sweden's Mats Wilander, ranked second and Hungary for the top spot, head the men's entry for next month's Italian Open tennis tournament.

Barcelona coach

AMSTERDAM, April 15, (Reuters): Johan Cruyff said today he had agreed to join Spanish First Division soccer club Barcelona as coach and would be signing a one-year contract in the next two weeks.

English clubs

COPENHAGEN, April 15, (Reuters): Denmark has urged the European Football Union (UEFA) to readmit English clubs to European soccer competitions. Danish Football Association president Karl Nielsen said yesterday.

Rabah Madjer

OPORTO, Portugal, April 15, (AP): A top official of the world champion FC Porto soccer club said yesterday that it rejects as illegal a contract signed by player Rabah Madjer with Bayern Munich.

British player

LONDON, April 15, (Reuters): A professional footballer who punched a rival player on the field and fractured his cheek bone was fined £1,200 yesterday. Chris Kamara, midfielder for Swindon Town, pleaded guilty at Shrewsbury magistrates court, western England, to causing grievous bodily harm to Shrewsbury striker Jim McIlrose.

Diego Maradona

BUENOS AIRES, April 15, (Reuters): Argentine captain Diego Maradona will not play in Australia's centenary soccer tournament in July because he will be on holiday. Argentine coach Carlos Bilardo said on Wednesday.

Dutch Cup

AMSTERDAM, April 15, (Reuters): Ajax Amsterdam, who last week virtually secured a place in the European Cup Winners' Cup final, were eliminated on Wednesday from the Dutch Cup after losing 2-1 to a Second Division team RKC, in the quarter-finals.

THREE CARS ROLL IN LOCAL RALLY

Falah scores first career victory

By Gail Seery

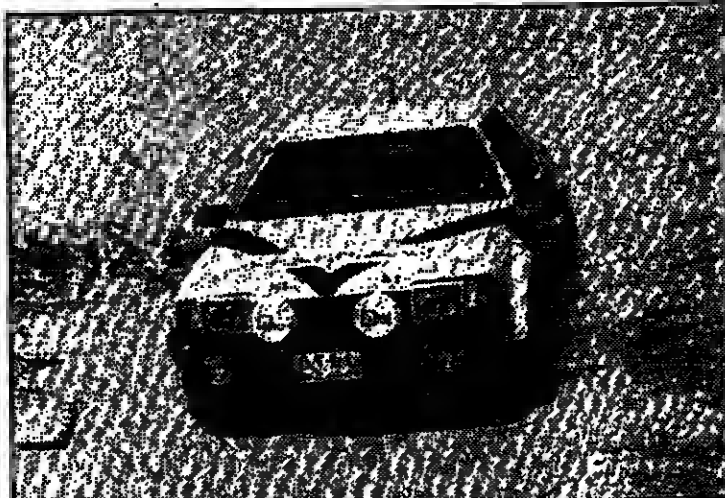
EID FALAH AL FARZAN, sponsored by Marlboro, took his first ever win, in yesterday's local rally. Driving a fully-backed Zayani Range Rover, and partnered by Sadeq Ashkaraoui, Falah drove a clean and competent rally, setting fast times from the very first stage, and despite three punctures, never putting a wheel wrong.

Falah elated at his success and told the Arab Times that he had experienced no problems, shrugging off his tyre difficulties. Hopefully he has now put months of bad luck behind him.

Obvious

To second place was an angry and disappointed Mohammed Hussein, who, despite the obvious inadequacy of his roll bar, and the knocking his car took when it rolled into the International, was clearly driving for oodling short of him after the two stage event. Falah was one minute thirty six seconds ahead of him after the ten stage event. He had also had three punctures, and felt that these had cost him the rally. Nevertheless, Hussein is quickly proving himself as an unusually daring driver.

Third place was taken by Ali Birami, notching up his first finish of the season, and Faez Chihab, who rolled on stage eighth struggled on bravely to finish in fourth position. Chihab's car does not have the power of the front runners, but he is making up for this with his wealth of experience. Ahmed Al Zafiri finished in fifth place in the low-powered car, despite apparent



Hussein: an unusually daring driver

problems. Sixth place was taken by Tareq and Khuloud Alyan to the Denim Rocky, and Nouri Al Hasawi moved up the championship ladder with a seventh place.

Sadly the day was marred by violence at the end of the event, when Zayani personnel alleged that Hussein had left one start area five seconds early. The five seconds would not have changed the placings, and no protest was brought.

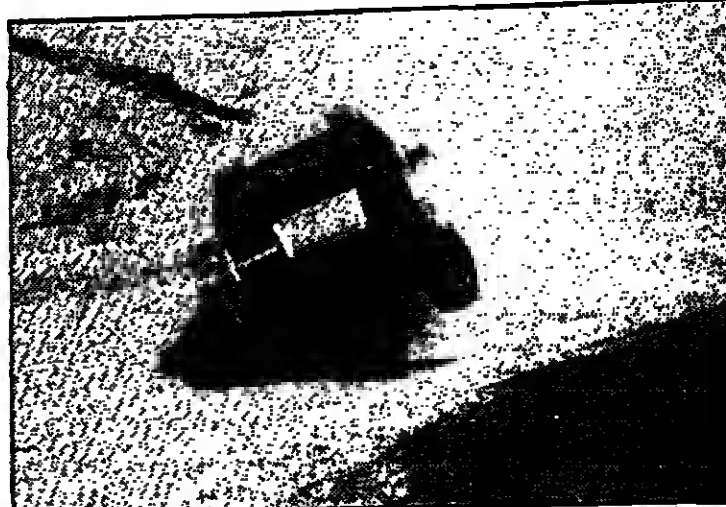
On the other hand, the delay also featured displays of sportsmanship when Yousif Ali who went on to finish thirteenth, stopped mid-stage to help Mike Allen in the Volvo, who was stuck on a ridge.

Tareq Al Wazzan, who had been so confident before the start of the event was in for a very short rally. On Thursday he had discovered mysterious electrical problems in his Marlboro Range

Rover, and these had been solved in a makeshift fashion. In the first quarry of the first stage he stopped and lost between three and four minutes. He restarted and was at the next time control at his due time, and completed the second stage. On the third stage the car stopped, once again due to the electrical problem, and could not be restarted.

Ahmed Al Hilal also went out of the running due to electrical problems. Peter Freisenegger and Klaus Schwingschloegl, who had been so certain that their car would out roll when we talked at the start of the event, found themselves doing just that, badly injuring the shell of the VW Beetle. Ahmed Al Nasser also rolled, making a total of three cars which over-turned during the day.

Fortunately all the cars which toppled over had adequate roll bars, and if these interesting



Birami: balances his way to third place

stages are to be included in future perhaps some of the drivers would like to check that their roll bars are genuinely conforming to safety regulations.

At the back of the field, Yousif Ali was having problems with an oil leak from the region of his rear axle, and fellow Lada driver Saeed Ali, who finished in a commendable 11th place, had a puncture. These results are in cars which have had the bare amount of work done on them, as the two drivers have no sponsorship.

Problems

In the first rally of the season Miskulnig praised the attitude of Saeed Ali, and it is clear that these young men are the type of drivers the sport needs to attract.

Hassan Al Hamad, driving car number 25 into 12th place, had to replace his shock absorbers, and also had problems with his engine cutting out. The three drivers thought that it had been a

good day. "It was a very good rally — the best one that's been held recently."

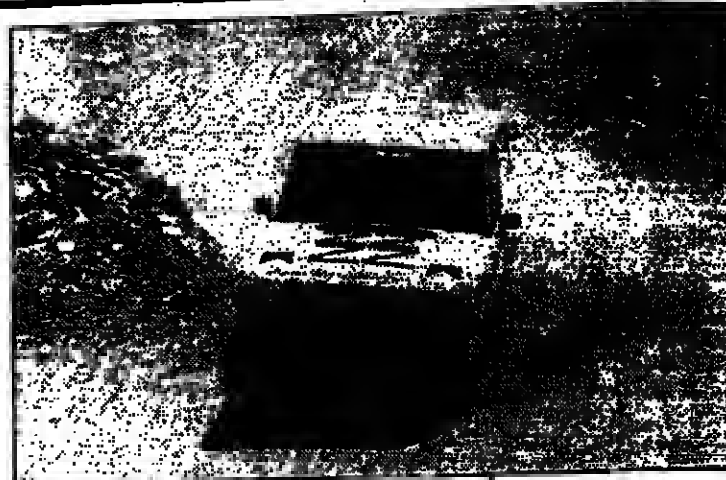
Whilst the organisers will be very glad to hear that, they have a number of problems, which greater co-operation and cohesion within the club would undoubtedly solve. Chief Marshall Jack Lubhat found himself with no 4x4 vehicles with which to police the event. Fortunately some of the French marshalls stepped in, and were able to arrange some transport from their companies. Campeon Bernard and Frezznet, Wael Khoury, the Clerk of the Course, and Lubhat did another splendid job. Hopefully the rallies we see after the summer will include the type of more interesting and demanding stage that we saw today.

Of the twenty-nine drivers who set out, fifty per cent fell out along the way, and only 14 made it back to the SAS Hotel.

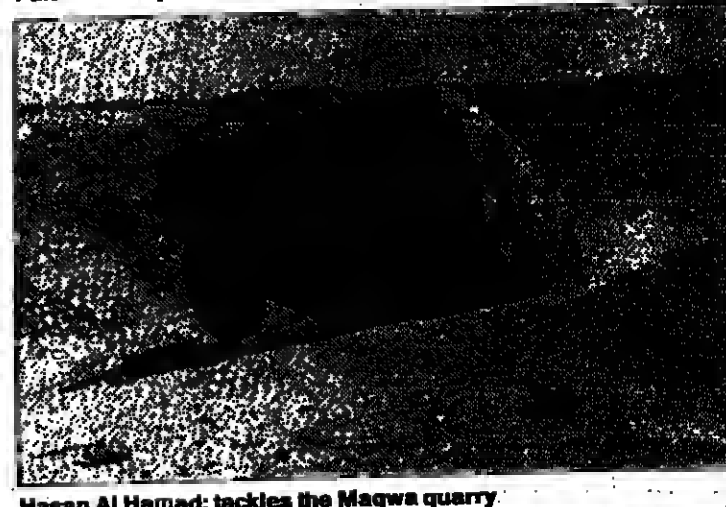
Provisional times:

1. Eid Falah/Ashkanani 1.41.36; 2. Al Hussein/Al Moosa 1.43.12; 3. Al Birami/Al Zaid 1.50.34; 4. Chihab/Hagobian 1.53.09; 5. Al Zafiri/Hannawi 1.57.24; 6. Alyan/Alyan 1.55.09; 7. Al Hasawi/Al Shahin 2.06.33; 8. Al Shimmiri/Al Edressi 2.07.17; 9. Al Shuwaie/Abu Jarwar 2.11.15; 10. Al Khamies/Al Rashed 2.13.38; 11. Saeed Ali/Hamdar 2.15.39; 12. Al Hamad/Al Hamdan 2.18.15; 13. Yousif Ali/Hamdan 2.19.02; 14. Al Shomari/Valsen 2.26.45.

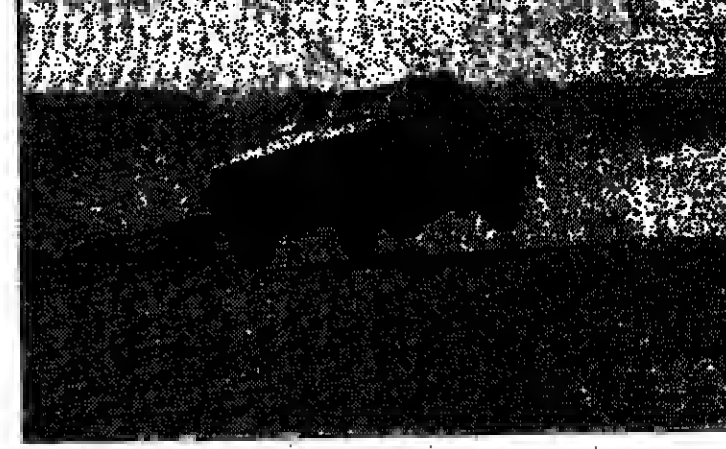
Photos by Mark Williams and Gail Seery



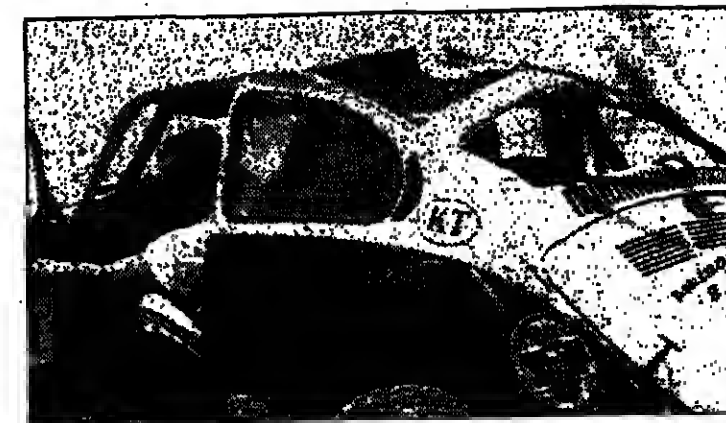
Falah: never put a wheel wrong.



Hasan Al Hamad: tackles the Maqwa quarry



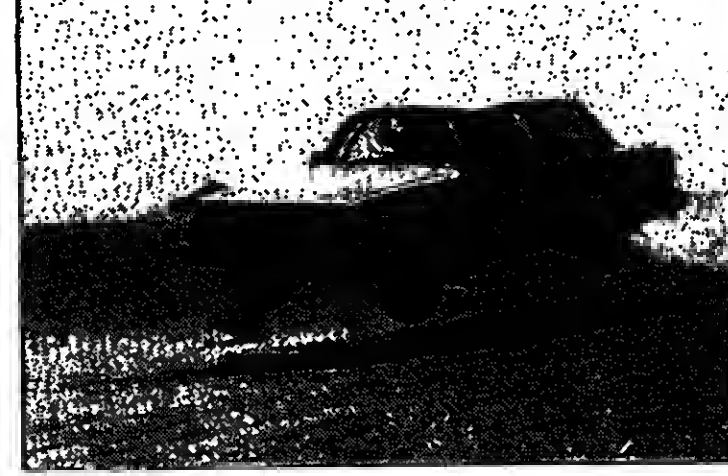
Chihab struggles on.



Freisenegger's car: in urgent need of a rebuild.



Alyan: coming down to earth



Mike Allen in flying form.

W. Indies all out for 174

Malik and Yousuf rescue Pakistan

PORT OF SPAIN, Trinidad, April 15, (Reuters): Salim Malik and Salim Yousuf rescued Pakistan with a 71-run unbroken eighth wicket stand after they had stumbled to 68 for seven in their first innings in the second Test against West Indies today.

By lunch on the second day, the touring team had recovered to 139 for seven in reply to West Indies' 174.

Pakistan, resuming at 55 for five, lost Ejaz Ahmed and skipper Imran Khan in the opening 25 minutes — both caught at short leg by Gus Logie.

Trying

Ejaz departed for three in the second over of the day when, trying to fend off a Winston Benjamin bouncer, he lobbed the ball high over the head of Logie who ran back almost 10 yards to take a superb catch.

Six runs later Malcolm Marshall, having unnerved Imran with two vicious bouncers, dug another delivery in short and the batsman could only fend the ball off to Logie who held a simple catch.

Imran took his tally of Test wickets to 326 advancing past the 325 of England's Bob Willis.

The Pakistanis' decision to put West Indies into bat may have been based on recent tradition. The last Test captain who decided to bat after winning the toss at Queen's Park Oval was Mushtaq in 1977.

The wicket was decidedly grassy and caused the West Indian batsmen plenty of problems in the morning session. Having lost both openers with only 25 on the board, the West Indies had reached relative safety by lunch at 75-2.

But Richie Richardson, having played so well before the interval, tried to hook Wasim Akram in the first over after the resumption and top-edged to mid-wicket.

Abdul Qadir, having been hit for two boundaries by Viv Richards, then struck twice in four balls. He had Gus Logie caught at slip and Carl Hooper behind off a quicker ball.

Richards, wearing one of his old Somerset shirts with the county crest on it, announced his return to the side with some majestic strokes, hitting eight fours in his 49 off only 48 balls.

The West Indies skipper over looked in the slightest difficulty until he advanced down the wicket to Qadir, failed to get the pitch of the ball, and edged to Javed Miandad at slip.

Richards' partnership with Jeff Dujon put on a valuable 58 for the sixth wicket and raised hopes of a recovery.

Malik, batting confidently, and the dangerous Yousuf, who survived a difficult chance to wicketkeeper Jeff Dujon off Marshall when he had made three, then set about redressing the balance in the remaining 95 minutes of the session.

When Marshall and Benjamin were rested after an hour the West Indian attack looked much less threatening.

By lunch Malik had reached 46 with six fours and Yousuf 29. Yesterday the West Indies collapsed from 80 for two wickets to 174 all out. This collapse was brought about by Imran Khan, 4-38, and Abdul Qadir, 4-83.

Imran took his tally of Test wickets to 326 advancing past the 325 of England's Bob Willis.

The Pakistanis' decision to put West Indies into bat may have been based on recent tradition. The last Test captain who decided to bat after winning the toss at Queen's Park Oval was Mushtaq in 1977.

The wicket was decidedly grassy and caused the West Indian batsmen plenty of problems in the morning session.

Having lost both openers with only 25 on the board, the West Indies had reached relative safety by lunch at 75-2.

But Richie Richardson, having played so well before the interval, tried to hook Wasim Akram in the first over after the resumption and top-edged to mid-wicket.

Abdul Qadir, having been hit for two boundaries by Viv Richards, then struck twice in four balls. He had Gus Logie caught at slip and Carl Hooper behind off a quicker ball.

Richards, wearing one of his old Somerset shirts with the county crest on it, announced his return to the side with some majestic strokes, hitting eight fours in his 49 off only 48 balls.

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Scoreboard

WEST INDIES first innings	
G. Greenidge c Ejaz Ahmed b Imran	1
D. Haynes lbw b Akram	17
R. Richardson c Qadir b Akram	42
A. Logie c Miandad b Qadir	18
V. Richards c Miandad b Qadir	49
C. Hooper c Yousuf b Imran	24
J. Dujon c Yousuf b Imran	10
M. Marshall not out	10
C. Ambrose lbw b Imran	4
W. Benjamin b Qadir	0
C. Walsh b Imran	5
Extras (lb-2 ab-2)	4
Total	174
Fall of wickets: 1-2 25 3-80 4-89 5-89 6-147 7-157 8-166 9-167	
Bowling: Imran 16.3-2-38-4, Akram 14.4-35-2, Qadir 19-2-83-4, Faheem 3-0-13-0, Modassar 1-0-3-0.	

LATE NEWS

Pakistan all out for 194

PORT OF SPAIN, Trinidad, April 15, (Reuters): Pakistan were all out for 194 in reply to West Indies' first innings score of 174 on the second day of the second cricket Test today.

WEMBLEY, England, April 15, (AP): World champion Jansher Khan rallied from a game down to defeat Stuart Hailstone, 6-9, 9-0, 9-0, 9-2, and advance to the men's quarterfinals of the British Open squash championships today.

Jansher, the men's top seed from Pakistan, was caught cold by his 18-year-old Scottish opponent before turning on the heat.

Point

He swept through the second and third games in 12 minutes without losing a point to lead the match, then ran off the final six points in the fourth game to clinch it.

Others advancing included sixth-seeded Chris Robertson of Australia, who ousted Britain's Jason Nicolle, 9-3, 10-8, 9-2.

Chesnokov and French trio reach semifinals

NICE, France, April 15, (Reuters): Top seed Andrei Chesnokov of the Soviet Union shouldered the foreign challenge alone as Frenchmen captured the three other semifinal places in the Nice Open tennis tournament today.

Chesnokov gained a 7-5 6-1 quarterfinal victory over Czechoslovak clay-court specialist Karel Novacek, a quarterfinalist in last year's French Open, to set up a semifinal clash with Henri Leconte.

Third-seeded Leconte, playing his first Grand Prix tournament in two months since injuring his hand in Milan, dropped the first set before defeating fifth seed Roland Agener of Haiti 5-7 7-5 6-1.

Eighth seed Guy Forget and unseeded Jerome Potier will contest the other semifinal. Forget beat Argentine veteran Guillermo Vilas 6-3 6-3 while Potier, who ousted fourth-seeded American Jimmy Arias in the first round, dispatched Spain's Jordi Arrese 7-6 6-2.

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